SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu bowed out in the semifinals of the Australian Open after a straight-game defeat to top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, **a defeat that also ended India's challenge in the tournament**

In a coordinated strike with Venezuela, US forces kill Niño Guerrero, leader of the Tren de Aragua gang, who had been charged in New York with racketeering, terrorism-related offences and other crimes spanning more than a decade.

Bangladesh spinner Nayeem Hasan alleges police harassment and assault in Chattogram after a domestic match; the Bangladesh Cricket Board seeks a thorough investigation and urges authorities to take appropriate action

Slovak President Peter Pellegrini says PM Narendra Modi's historic visit will open new opportunities for bilateral cooperation. Modi begins a France-Slovakia tour, with talks on trade, investment and economic ties on the agenda

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Gadkari clears path for 100% ethanol vehicles

Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari Saturday said he has signed the file approving rules for legal sanction to 100% ethanol-powered vehicles. "Finally, my dream of ethanol-replacing petrol is coming true," he said. The minister said he also launched a 100% ethanol version of a top automobile company, and other auto firms would follow suit. **P 13**

FSSAI bans use of metal pins, wires in cakes

Food regulator FSSAI has ordered an immediate halt to use of metallic pins, wires and similar materials in food products and packaging, citing the risk of accidental ingestion and injury. The direction comes two weeks after a toddler in Maharashtra swallowed two metal wires hidden inside decorative cake toppers. **P 16**

Pune's youngest organ donor, 3, gives new life to 4

A boy (3) declared brain dead on June 12 became Pune's youngest paediatric organ donor. After suffering severe injuries from a fall at his home, he was hospitalised in critical condition. His kidneys and liver helped two patients, while his corneas restored sight to two others. His family's decision was described as rare. **P 16**

Cadaver remark: Student on 'leave'

KEM Hospital & G S Medical College in Parel has placed third-year MBBS student Sejal Pawar on compulsory leave for 15 days pending an inquiry into the objectionable remarks she made on cadavers during a comedy show 3 months ago. **Page Opp**

Woman fractures ankle in cable snag

A routine ride home after a dental appointment turned tragic for Shaziya, 46, when a loose optical fibre cable got entangled in her scooter's handlebar on Kalyan Nagar service road, throwing her onto the road. The fall left her with four fractures in her ankle. **P 2**

CET counselling deferred again

The date for CET counselling is still undecided with no clarity on the seat matrices of various courses. There is no clarity either on when it is likely to begin now. KEA has received only the seat matrix of agriculture. **P 2**

5 IAF men killed in An-32 crash, co-pilot survives

Accident Occurred While Plane Was Landing In Jorhat

Prabin.Kalita & Surendra Singh

IANS

Rescue operation under way after AN-32 crashed. The IAF plans to replace the aging fleet with newer transport aircraft

Guwahati/New Delhi: An Indian Air Force (IAF) An-32 transport aircraft crashed while landing at Rowriah airbase in Assam's Jorhat on Saturday, killing five personnel on board.

The co-pilot miraculously survived the crash and is undergoing treatment, a source told **TOI.** The IAF has begun a detailed probe into the cause of the tragedy.

"The Indian Air Force deeply regrets the loss of five personnel in the An-32 accident at Jorhat, Assam. Sqn Ldr Prashant Singh, Flt Lt Shubham Kumar, Sgt Jitendra Sharma, Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveervayu Danish Alam made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. IAF extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and stands firmly with them in this hour of grief," IAF said in a post on X on Saturday.

Giving details, IAF said the "aircraft met with an accident during a routine sortie today at approximately 1000h at Jorhat, Assam. Crash site management and initial enquiries are on at this time."

▶Third major tragedy, P 12

Won't tolerate ships violating blockade: Rubio to Jaishankar

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New Delhi: India and the US remained locked in a tense standoff over attacks on vessels in Gulf of Oman, with US signalling no relief for Indian mariners caught in the crossfire of the US-Iran conflict.

After having twice summoned the American envoy over US military strikes on foreign-flagged ships carrying Indian mariners, India further escalated the issue as external affairs minister S Jaishankar reiterated India's protest in a phone call with his US counterpart Marco Rubio. "Such lethal actions against commercial shipping are not justified," Jaishankar later posted on X. However, Rubio underscored that violations of the US blockade and illicit transport of Iranian oil will not be tolerated, confirming there'll be no exemption for Indian seafarers.

▶Modi, Trump to meet on sidelines of G7, P 13

▶Obey US forces, P 19

Deal Sunday: Trump; not so soon, says Iran

US President Trump and mediator Pakistan said Saturday an initial deal to end the war in West Asia would be signed Sunday and the Strait would be immediately "open to all". But an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson said, "We will have to wait and see about the exact date of the signing... it won't be tomorrow". **P 19**

DKS rolls out bribe hotline, vows to make K'taka graft-free

Bengaluru: Chief minister **DK Shivakumar** Saturday made an ambitious pledge: to make Karnataka corruption-free and announced a direct public reporting system to check bribery in govt offices across the state, **reports Pearl D Souza**.

After holding a seven-hour review meeting with senior bureaucrats and police officers, Shivakumar said every taluk and district office will display a board with phone numbers where citizens can report demands for bribes.

The CM said such complaints would be scrutinised before action is taken.

▶Caste pressure, P 6

Long-pending PRR gets moving with 21-km KIA link

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Bengaluru: After years of delay, the long-pending Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, now rechristened the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), has moved closer to execution. Bengaluru Business Corridor chairman and finance adviser to the CM, L K Atheeq, said a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) was issued to Shankaranarayana Constructions Pvt Ltd (SNC) Friday for construction of the project first package.

The first package covers a 21-km stretch from Madavara, near Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), to Ballari Road, providing a key link to Kempegowda International Airport. The contract has been awarded for Rs 3,253.14 crore, with a completion deadline of three years. Construction is likely to start within three months.

TO CUT TRAVEL TIME

- The **73-km Bengaluru Business Corridor will connect Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road** through city's northern and eastern outskirts
- The 21-km package links Madavara and Ballari Road, a key route to KIA; **completion timeline is 3 yrs**
- For the **remaining two packages, tenders expected** to be floated **by July**

▶Set to get relief, P 2

Anthropic pulls 2 models on US nat'ls-only order

Washington: In a move that could redefine the global artificial intelligence landscape, the Trump administration Friday abruptly ordered AI firm Anthropic to suspend access to its newest frontier models — Fable 5 and Mythos 5 — for all foreign nationals, regardless of where they are located, including non-American employees in the US, **reports Chidanand Rajghatta**.

The order, issued under US export-control rules citing national security concerns, forced Anthropic to pull the models for everyone overnight. It said it couldn't reliably distinguish between American and foreign users quickly enough to comply with the order. India got access to an advanced Anthropic AI model two weeks ago.

▶Misunderstanding, P 19

Midnight drive turns fatal for car dealer, pal

Bengaluru: A late-night drive in a Mercedes-Benz SUV ended in tragedy near Hoskote after the vehicle crashed into a divider on the Satellite Town Ring Road

Deceased Saajiya and Rizwan

shortly after Friday midnight, killing two occupants.

Car dealer Rizwan, 30, who was driving the SUV, was thrown out of the vehicle and fell into a water-filled area below the bridge, while his companion, Saajiya, died on the spot. The second-hand SUV belonged to one of Rizwan's clients, said cops. TNN

▶CCTV cams defunct, P2

Ladies' first: Maiden batch of 9 from IMA become officers

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Robin Singh Talan was commissioned into Army and his wife Swati Kumari is already a Navy officer

Dehradun: A historic chapter was added to the rich legacy of the Indian Military Academy as the 93-year-old military institute witnessed the first batch of nine women officer cadets (OC) getting commissioned as Army officers at the Passing out Parade (POP) of 158th regular course and 141st technical graduate course in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu Saturday.

The first batch had joined the academy after completing NDA training—a first in IMA's history. They were among the 515 OCs, including 34 foreign OCs from 16 countries, who graduated from the academy to join their respective armies.

Terming it a "major milestone", Murmu said, The passing out of the first female cadets from the academy is a significant step towards women empowerment..."

▶Legacies fly high, P 22

Mud wall may have saved lone AI crash survivor

Ahmedabad: June 12, 2025. Air India Flight 171 takes off for London Gatwick at 1.38pm. Thirty-two seconds later, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 242 people plunges to Earth and crashes 1.7km from Ahmedabad airport. One man lives, **reports Ashish Chauhan**.

For nearly a year, mystery has swirled around how seat 11A flier Viswashkumar Ramesh, a British national of Indian origin, walked away alive. An internal assessment by Gujarat police has pieced together a chain of survival: seat 11A, a mid-air ejection, a 50ft trajectory away from wreckage and a 10ft mud embankment created by construction and landscaping work. That mud wall shielded him from a fireball.

▶Reconstruct events, P 16

Pesticides and Industrial Waste Render India's Water Unsafe to Drink
Lead Pollution Alarming: 69 Rivers in India Contaminated
MERCURY AT DANGEROUS LEVELS IN INDIA'S WATER BODIES
Plastic Pollution on the rise
ARSENIC DETECTED IN GROUNDWATER SOURCES
Elevated arsenic levels in groundwater sources are alarming. Such high levels of arsenic in India's groundwater pose significant health risks.

DID YOU KNOW
WATER SOURCES TODAY CONTAIN PESTICIDES, LEAD, ARSENIC AND MERCURY?

Consuming water containing these deadly contaminants can cause serious illnesses, even cancer!

STOP ordinary filters from being installed in your water purifier. Tests conducted at IIT Madras have verified that they fail fast and do not remove these deadly contaminants, which can cause serious illnesses, including cancer.

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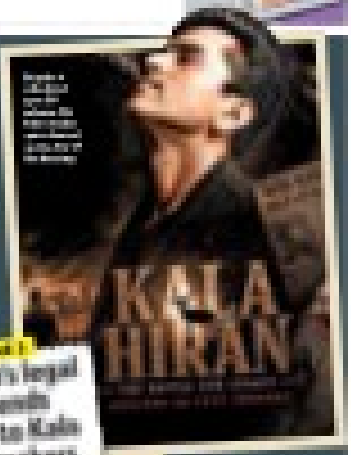
Bangalore Times

Nora strikes another WC hit

Anything about the football fans scares me

Seeking an injunction against Kala Hiran: Salman's legal team



Salman's legal team sends notice to Kala Hiran makers

Background

Healthy India, Strong India
Free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for senior citizens aged 70+, 60+ crore people covered under Ayushman Bharat
19,000+ Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country providing quality medicines at up to 90% lower prices
12 Saal Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke
Government of Bharat
CBC 17101/73/0010/2627

Hanging cable, shattered ankle
Woman hurt as OFC snags scooter

Rogue Wire Ends In Yet Another Road Accident

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: What began as a routine ride home after a dental appointment ended in a devastating accident for 46-year-old Shaziya, who now faces months of recovery after a loose optical fibre cable allegedly snagged her scooter and threw her onto the road.

The incident occurred around 7.15pm on June 9 on the service road at Kalyan Nagar. Shaziya was returning home with her 17-year-old daughter when the cable suddenly got entangled with the scooter's handlebar, causing her to lose control and crash. "I don't know what happened. Suddenly the cable got caught in my handle, I couldn't ride... lost control and I fell," she said.

The fall left her with four fractures in her ankle. She was rushed to a hospital, where doctors performed a major surgery, inserting two rods and 13 screws to stabilise the shattered bones. After several days of treatment, she was discharged on June 12.

But the road to recovery is expected to be long and painful. Her daughter, who was riding pillion, escaped with minor injuries. The accident has also taken a heavy financial toll on the family. Medical expenses have already crossed Rs 2.3 lakh. With her husband working abroad, arranging funds for the surgery and treatment became an additional challenge during an already traumatic time.

Shaziya's brother, Imran Rasheed, said the accident took place on a poorly lit stretch of the road and could easily have turned fatal had another vehicle approached from behind. "By god's grace, there was no vehicle immediately behind them. If a bus or a speeding car had been there, the consequences would have been much more serious."

Rasheed, who lives in JP Nagar while his sister resides in north Bengaluru, said he received a distress call moments after the accident and had to urgently coordinate with friends and acquaintances nearby to help her until family members arrived. What is even more alarming, according to Shaziya, is that the cable continued to pose a threat after her fall. As she sat injured by the roadside waiting for assistance, she allegedly saw the same cable snag the side mirror of a passing autorickshaw.

"I don't know how many more people have encountered it; this cable issue has gone too far. After my fall, I heard of similar accidents from others too," she said.

The incident has once again put the spotlight on the growing menace of hanging and abandoned telecom cables in the city. "I see loose internet cables in many parts of Bengaluru. People may ignore them, but they are extremely dangerous for two-wheeler riders. What happened to my sister shows how a neglected cable can change a family's life in a matter of seconds. This is a serious safety issue and the authorities must act before another accident occurs," said Rasheed.

Shaziya expressed hope that her experience will serve as a warning and prompt the authorities into action. "So many people travel by bike every day. These cables should not become a danger to their lives," she said.

Meanwhile, civic authorities said they will attend to the loose cable and ensure the safety of motorists.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

Stay alert on poorly lit roads | Be extra cautious while riding or walking on dimly lit stretches, where loose cables may be difficult to spot

Maintain safe speed | Riding at moderate speed gives you more time to react if you notice a cable hanging across the road or lying on the ground. Keep your visor clean

Keep safe distance from roadside poles | Many telecom and internet cables are attached to utility poles. Avoid riding too close to them, especially if you notice sagging wires nearby

Watch out for unusual objects across the road | Scan the road ahead for anything stretched across your path or hanging at head height, especially during rain or at dusk

Warn others and report hazards immediately | Alert nearby motorists and pedestrians about the hazard and lodge a complaint with the civic authorities or police before it causes an accident

TOI

GROWING CONCERN: A loose fibre cable recently got entangled with a woman's scooter, leaving her with four fractures & a Rs 2.3-lakh bill

What to do if entangled
- Do not accelerate vehicle
- Slow down gradually and apply brakes carefully
- If possible, stop safely and dismount before attempting to assess situation

YOU READ IT IN TOI
Live Wires, Deadly Lapses
Danger hangs over streets
GBA Urged To Act As Unattended Cables Pose Threat In Rain, Night
May 6, 2026
Lokayukta cracks whip as underpass floods

Wait continues for CET counselling

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SEAT MATRIX DELAY

Bengaluru: The wait of Common Entrance Test (CET) aspirants continues as the date for counselling is still undecided with Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) awaiting seat matrices of various courses.

While minister for medical education Sharan Prakash Patil had earlier announced that counselling would begin on June 10, KEA later postponed it and tentatively announced June 13 as the date. However, there is no clarity on when it is likely to begin now.

The issue stems from the fact that the final seat matrix for engineering has still not been approved by the higher education department. "After the draft seat matrix was announced, we invited objections. They are being scrutinised now. We hope to release the final seat matrix before next Saturday," said a higher education department official.

With no minister handling the portfolio, the chief minister will have to approve the matrix. Sharan Prakash, who is also co-chairman of KEA, said he will be meeting DK Shivakumar soon regarding this matter.

Meanwhile, KEA has received only the seat matrix of agriculture. The seat matrices for nursing, pharmacy and other professional courses are yet to come.

KEA Friday released the verification slip required for admission. Candidates can download the verification slip at cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/ugcet_vs_2026, said executive director, H Prasanna. This is the first stage of the seat-allocation process, which will contain complete information about the candidates. The link to register options will be opened after the seat matrix is received from the govt, KEA said in a press statement.

Request for extension

Meanwhile, Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association has written to All-India Council of Technical Education to extend the last date of counselling to Sept 15. Currently, it is until Aug 15.

The association said it is difficult to complete counselling as it has gone online since the Covid pandemic. The Aug 15 date was used based on a Supreme Court order issued in 2012, when the counselling process was held offline, the association noted. The online process involves document verification, various stages of allotment, payment of tuition fees and admission at college level. It has therefore sought more time from AICTE to complete the process.

1 dead as bike falls into ditch

Bengaluru: A motorcycle ride turned tragic for two youths from Assam after their bike crashed into a ditch near Vanakanahalli in Anekal taluk Saturday evening, leaving one dead and the other seriously injured. The deceased has been identified as Anwar 27, while Putul, 26, is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The friends, employed on the outskirts of Bengaluru, were returning from Tamil Nadu when the accident occurred. As they were passing through Vanakanahalli, they lost control of the motorcycle and plunged into the ditch.

Anekal police said the rider may have tried to avoid a pothole on the road and lost control of the bike. "However, the exact cause of the accident will be ascertained after a detailed probe," a cop said. TNN

2.7k free passes issued to boys

The four state-run road transport corporations issued 2,764 free bus passes within the first two days of the newly launched free travel scheme for male students. According to official data, 821 passes were issued Friday, the first day of rollout, while another 1,943 were distributed Saturday.

NWKRTC topped list with 995 passes, followed by KSRTC with 860. KKRTC issued 641 passes, while BMTC distributed 268. Vinay R, from Hassan district, became the first to receive pass from KSRTC. TNN

KIA-bound traffic set to get relief through PRR link

▶ Continued from page 1

Atheeq said that the contractor will be responsible for design, construction, and maintenance of the corridor for 10 years after completion. Bengaluru Business Corridor Ltd (BBCL) will appoint a project management consultant (PMC) to supervise the work.

Key features of the first package include three cloverleaf interchanges at BIEC, Doddaballapur Road, and Ballari Road. The corridor alignment begins at Madavara and ends near Collins Aerospace on Ballari Road. At Madavara, it will integrate with Tumakuru Road and NICE Road. The project includes a 7km elevated corridor and a grade separator at Hesaraghatta.

PRR, linking national highways and state highways on the city outskirts, is expected to ease traffic congestion in Bengaluru. The project will feature an eight-lane main carriageway and four-lane service roads. Provision has also been made for a future Metro line. The project also features a dedicated 2-metre-wide cycle lane and a 3-metre-wide pedestrian footpath. Explaining the significance of the first package, Atheeq said, "This corridor will reduce travel time for commuters travelling from west Bengaluru to Kempegowda International Airport. "Once commissioned, traffic congestion at Goraguntepalya and Hebbal is expected to ease."

The project will also provide faster airport connectivity for commuters travelling from Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway by avoiding congested city roads.

TRASH & TENDER TROUBLE
What's fuelling ₹39k-cr controversy

Bengaluru's proposed overhaul of its solid waste management system has triggered a major political row, with leader of the opposition R Ashoka alleging that the tender process for integrated solid waste management (ISWM) involves irregularities and a kickback. The tender is valued at Rs 39,437 crore over 35 years. Chief minister DK Shivakumar has countered Ashoka by alleging that the latter is operating on behalf of the "garbage mafia". Here's what you need to know:

TOI Explains

Garbage conundrum

Ashoka, citing official documents, breaks up the current expenditure in managing waste:

- ₹1,340 cr — approx spent on handling waste annually
- ₹380 cr — on processing and disposal
- ₹514 cr — on collection and transportation
- ₹444 cr — on salaries for pourakarmikas

● The city manages this through Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML), established in Nov 2021, which called and managed ISWM tender

What's BJP's allegation?

On June 10, Ashoka filed complaints with the Lokayukta and governor, alleging large-scale irregularities in the tender process. The 30-year contract (extendable by five years) has been awarded to Delhi-based MSW Solutions Ltd, which is said to be a wholly owned subsidiary of Hyderabad-based Ramky Group. Union minister Shobha Karandlaje had separately written to chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh on May 30, demanding the tender be immediately suspended and a CBI inquiry ordered. The Lokayukta has assured immediate action. Ashoka alleged that the tender involved kickbacks worth Rs 10,000 crore.

Troubled 3-round tender history

The current project's DPR was prepared by RITES, examined by BSWML's technical committee and approved at its 13th board meeting — fixing the tipping fee (the per-tonne processing charge) at Rs 2,998.

The first tender call drew zero bids. In the second round, three bidders came forward for both North and South packages and were all declared technically disqualified. "In the third round, the same three bidders were found technically qualified — with no publicly disclosed change in eligibility criteria," Ashoka and Karandlaje have alleged.

Both their complaints describe this reversal as evidence of manipulation and allege that BSWML appears to have relaxed the conditions itself, a power ordinarily belonging to the finance department.

The cabinet approval was allegedly pushed through just before former CM Siddaramaiah stepped down. As per the opposition, several ministers and the finance department had raised objections. After DK Shivakumar became CM, a review committee was dissolved and replaced with a new one, which was given just seven days, down from 15, to examine the contract.

Financial scale of issue

At existing rates, 30 years of waste processing would cost around Rs 6,117 crore. Under the new contract, it rises to Rs 39,437 crore, placing an additional burden of Rs 33,320 crore on taxpayers. "A 5% annual escalation clause compounds this further, potentially pushing the tipping fee to Rs 9,297 per tonne by 2056. The finance department recommended capping escalation at 2.5% and reducing the tenure to 10 years. Both packages have been awarded to the same company, at rates approximately 19% above originally approved estimates," Ashoka has alleged.

Key allegations

The complaints and official letters raise several specific charges. The process was allegedly designed to favour Ramky. They claim BBMP (now GBA) itself had terminated a contract with it in 2016 over mismanagement of the Mavallipura landfill.

The finance department formally objected on record to the contract length, the escalation rate, awarding both packages to one vendor, and accepting bids more than 10% above estimated value — all of which a May 2022 govt circular says should trigger mandatory re-tendering.

These objections were overridden. Land is being acquired from a private firm at nearly Rs 1.6 crore per acre, above the legally determined rate and over finance department objections. The project site also contains 4-5 lakh tonnes of legacy waste, raising the prospect of future cost claims by the contractor.

Notice to Ricky Rai over Lambo stunt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Screengrab

VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Bengaluru: A viral video clip showing a Lamborghini bearing registration number KA05NR0009, allegedly owned by late underworld operator Muthappa Rai's son Ricky Rai, being driven at high speed on Kempegowda International Airport Road while emitting loud exhaust noise and flames, has triggered a police probe.

The video was uploaded on Instagram by the account 'rai_6600' on May 20. According to DCP (north-traffic) Jayaprakash, based on footage circulating on social media, Devanahalli traffic police issued a notice to Ricky seeking an explanation on the matter.

The video purportedly shows the Lamborghini being driven while emitting modified exhaust sounds. In a dramatic display, flames can also be seen shooting out of the vehicle's exhaust, raising concerns over public safety and possible traffic violations. The notice was served Saturday under Sections 52, 177, 184 and 190 (2) of Motor Vehicles Act, and Section 281 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

In the notice, police stated that on May 20, at 12.09am, the vehicle was being driven in a dangerous and reckless manner on KIA Road, making extremely loud noises and endangering the life and safety of the public. Ricky has been directed to appear before the authorities, along with the vehicle and relevant documents, within three days of receiving the notice and submit a written explanation.

A senior officer said Ricky explained over phone that the video was recorded when the car was heading towards Sadahalli toll plaza. He is said to have claimed that flames are emitted when the vehicle is driven at 10-15kmph and the accelerator is pressed suddenly as it picks up speed. Police asked him to submit his explanation in writing.

The latest controversy comes barely months after the same Lamborghini was embroiled in a high-profile drifting case. On March 21, the luxury car was allegedly used for dangerous drifting stunts near MG Road. Ricky initially denied involvement. However, CCTV footage established that he was driving the vehicle, following which an FIR was registered at Cubbon Park police station.

Cheetahs, zebra foal, hippo calf mark busy season at BBP

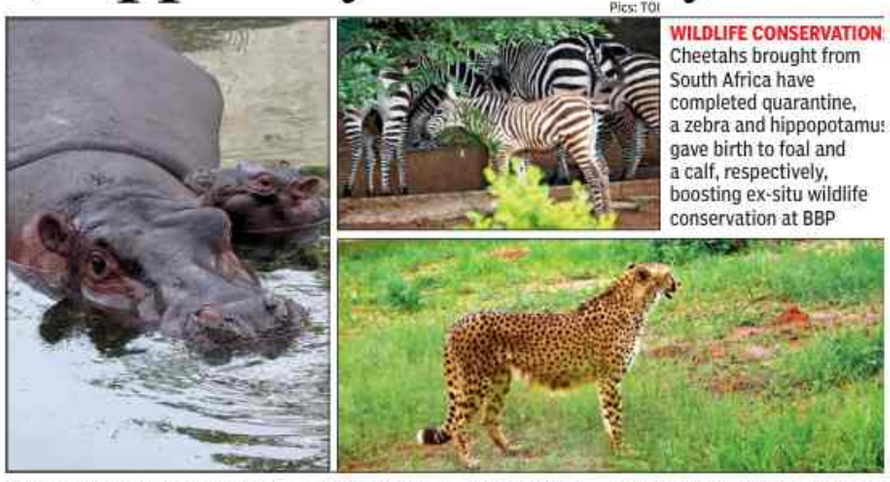
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Turning a new page in its conservation and captive-breeding efforts, Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) Saturday announced multiple milestones boosting ex-situ wildlife conservation. BBP officials confirmed the successful completion of quarantine and acclimatisation of cheetahs recently brought from South Africa, along with the birth of a zebra foal and a hippopotamus calf.

BBP, after securing permission from Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), had imported four cheetahs (two male and two female) from Induna Primate and Parrot Park in South Africa in April 2025. After their arrival, the world's fastest land mammal was kept under quarantine at the BBP facility. "Cheetahs have completed the mandatory quarantine period and have now been shifted to their outdoor habitat for public viewing," said Surya Sen, executive director of BBP.

During quarantine, according to BBP officials, the cheetahs were housed in a dedicated facility and monitored round-the-clock, with close observation of their feeding behaviour, health condition and adaptation to Bengaluru's climatic conditions. "The addition of cheetahs to BBP enhances visitor experience besides providing an opportunity to raise awareness on conservation challenges faced by them."

Pics: TOI



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Cheetahs brought from South Africa have completed quarantine, a zebra and hippopotamus gave birth to foal and a calf, respectively, boosting ex-situ wildlife conservation at BBP

In yet another significant development, hippopotamus 'Dashya' has given birth to a calf. "Both the mother and calf are under continuous observation, with minimal disturbance. We have also ensured that there is no stress in the enclosure during the critical post-parturition period. Preliminary assessments indicate that the calf is healthy, while Dashya is displaying strong maternal instincts and attentive care," a BBP officer explained.

Similarly, the park witnessed the birth of a female zebra foal to Zebra Kabini. "The newborn is healthy, active and being nursed regularly under the close care of its mother. With this latest delivery, the zebra herd at BBP has increased to 11 animals. The expanding herd reflects our sustained efforts to maintain genetically viable captive populations and provide environments that support natural behaviour and social structure," an official pointed out.

Solar-powered CCTV cams on STRR weren't functioning: Cop

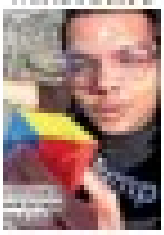
▶ Continued from page 1

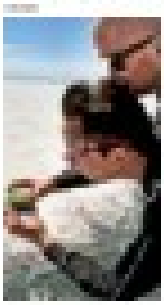
Police said Rizwan, a used-car dealer, picked up his friend Saajiya, 23, a resident of Kammanahalli, and drove towards Devanahalli for a late-night dinner. The duo was returning towards Hoskote when near Doddahullur, 1km from Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, Rizwan reportedly lost control over the luxury SUV **(in pic)** and slammed into the road divider with huge force. Police said the vehicle belonged to one of Rizwan's clients, who had handed it over to him for resale.

Rescue teams and police launched a search operation, but were unable to recover Rizwan's body due to darkness. His body was recovered Saturday morning with the help of fire and emergency services personnel.

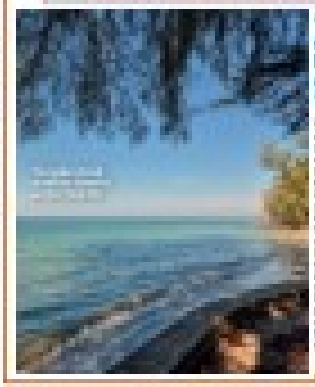
A case has been registered against Rizwan. Police said he was married and is survived by wife and children. Saajiya was a part-time employee at a private firm. Police suspect speeding and reckless driving as the primary causes of the crash. CCTV cameras on STRR were not functioning at the time of incident, an officer said.

Man solves two Rubik's cubes mid-air, sets Guinness World Record



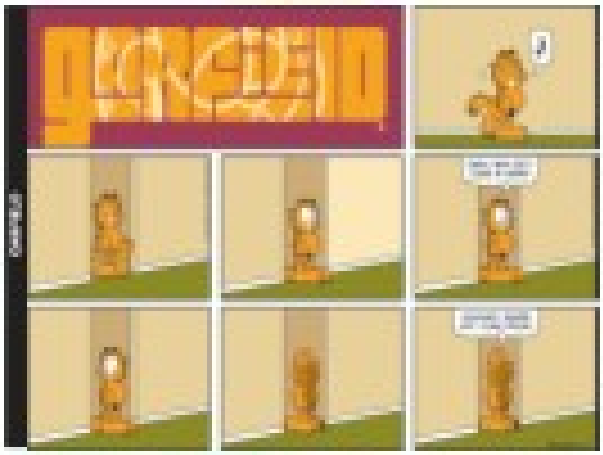


Digital copper: The futuristic luxe metal



'I found my most peaceful bike ride at not so 'Thailand'

LEISURE



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Subsidy Structure, Estimated Rooftop Area And Savings

Monthly Consumption (Units)	Solar Panel	Estimated Cost	Government Subsidy	Rooftop Area (Sq. Ft.)	Monthly Savings (Units)	Estimated Monthly Savings
<200	1 – 2 kW	₹ 70,000 - 1,40,000	₹ 30,000-60,000	60 - 120	100 - 200	₹ 700 - 1,400
200 - 300	2 – 3 kW	₹ 1,40,000 -2,10,000	₹ 60,000-78,000	120 - 180	200 - 300	₹ 1,400 - 2,000
>300	More than 3 kW	More than ₹ 2,10,000	₹ 78,000	More than 180	More than 300	More Than ₹ 2,000

- Subsidy amount will be directly credited to bank account immediately after grid connection.
- Loans at reasonable interest rates are available from Government Banks for up to 90% of installation cost.
- Initial investment can be recovered in a few years.

Group Housing Societies and Residential Welfare Associations can install rooftop solar panels for common services and receive a subsidy of ₹18,000 per kW.

For details, visit **pmsuryaghar.gov.in** portal or contact **033-23677486**

Application Process

Register on portal pmsuryaghar.gov.in OR Scan QR Code

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Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

ICA-D852(9)/2026

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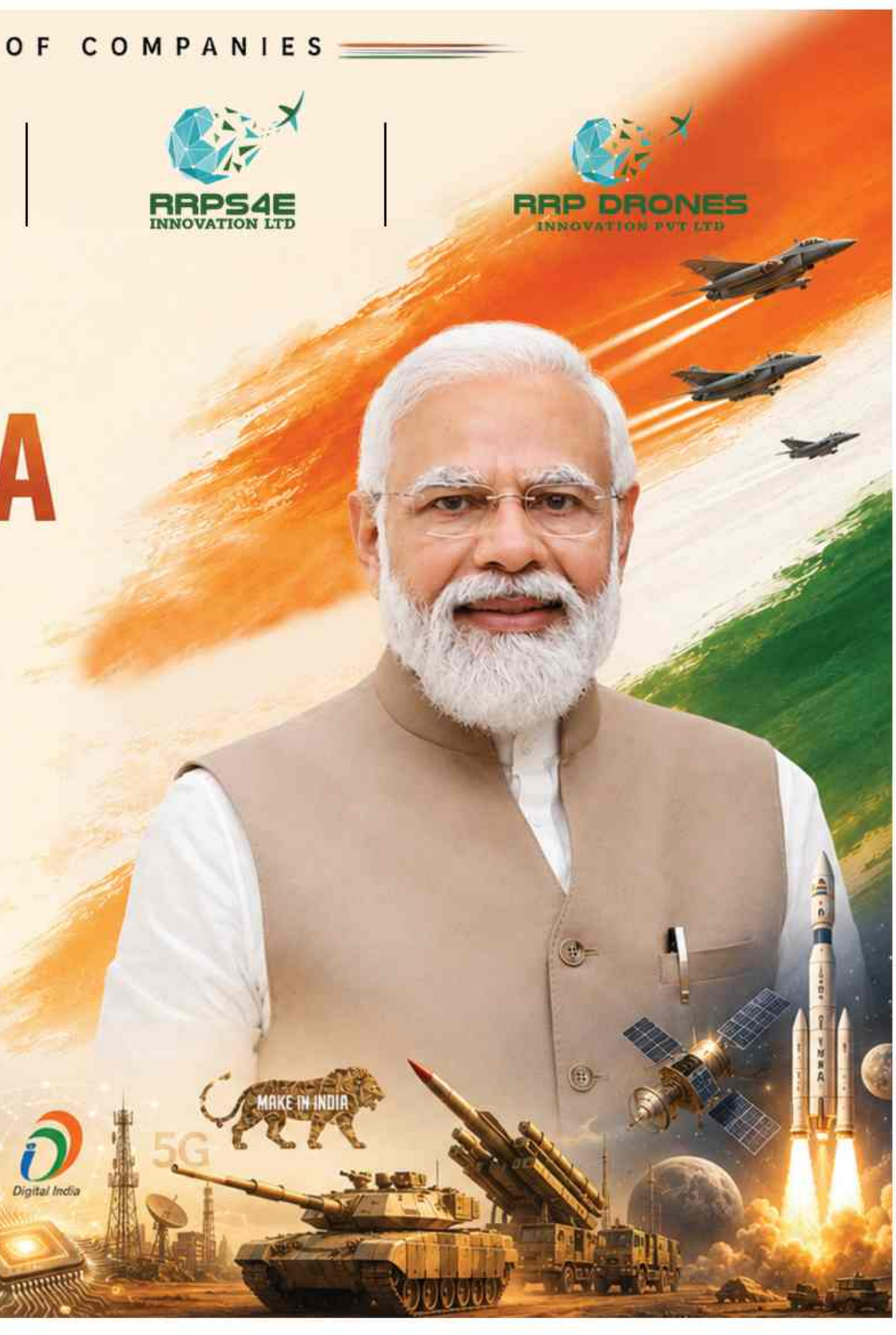
आपने भारत को सिर्फ आगे नहीं बढ़ाया,
विश्व में नई पहचान दिलाई।

We salute your **Sankalp**. We are proud of your **Seva**.



Wedding Times

WANTED GROOM

I endow simple, sincerity and virtue both on both and kindness'

Name Andrew
Age 29
Profession Architect
Current City Aberdeen
Religion Muslim
Complexion Fair/Light, Hair: Dark/Black
Education Master's in Architecture

Find Us At Stall 1

Physician or Architect? Physician
Town Called? Yes
Prefer partner's Ethnicity? Doesn't Matter
Ethnic or Exotic? Exotic
Love Handy or Not Love Handy? Love Handy

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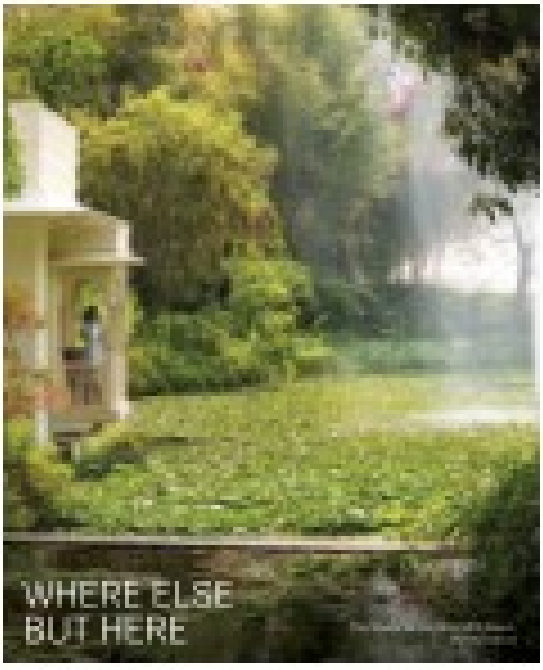

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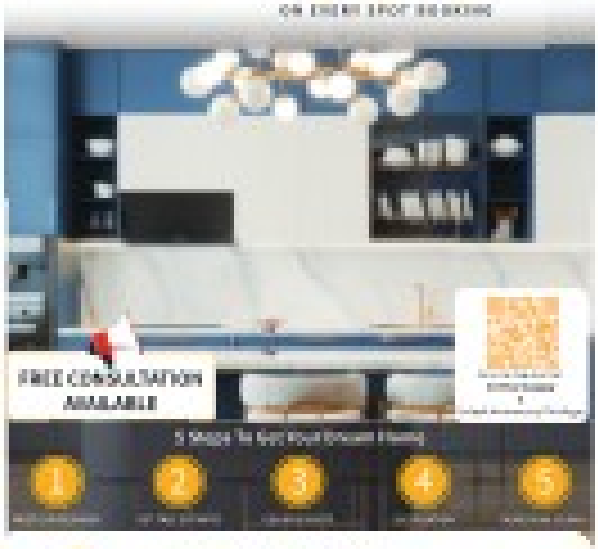

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GOING BANANAS OVER FARMING

Vacant Plots And Common Areas Are Transforming Into Thriving Community Gardens, Driven By RWAs, NGOs, And Schools

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

NOURISHING COMMUNITY SPIRIT: At Pratham Garden, drumsticks are distributed free, while bananas are sold at a premium (about ₹100 per dozen) to fund RWA initiatives

The sky is overcast, but residents of Pratham Garden in Koramangala refuse to let the weather dampen their spirits. On a vacant plot inside the layout, they have created a thriving organic garden, nurturing banana, moringa and hibiscus plants.

A key strength of the initiative is the way residents draw on the knowledge and expertise of senior citizens living in the community while planning and building the farm. "Residents like Rajagopal and Kousalya guided us by suggesting what plants to grow, how to support banana plants when heavy with fruit, and how to space banana plants to improve fruiting. We also learnt what to grow in the shade of larger plants. We grow pumpkin, lemongrass, and other intercropped plants here," says Padmashree Balaram, president of the RWA, adding that the layout has 362 plots and is home to over 1,000 people.

Garden produce is sold through the RWA group: Photos of the harvest are posted, and a woman living opposite the garden helps store and sell the produce. A portion of the proceeds is reinvested into the garden, helping sustain inputs and upkeep without placing the burden on a few individuals.

> We are all set to make a return, taking everything we've learned — the wins, the friction, the truths. We are building something more sustainable."
> **Anamika Bist** | FOUNDER, VILLAGE STORY

Beyond the produce, the garden has become a space where neighbours meet, work side by side, and build familiarity across age groups.

Community gardening brings everyone together, and the joy of harvesting organic fruits and vegetables grown with collective care is hard to match. Across the city, these small kitchen gardens have become hubs for community engagement, learning, and shared responsibility.

Small Spaces, Big Harvests

Sattva Greenage has several fruit trees in its orchard. "Recently we sold our mangoes and jackfruits to residents at a market price," says Ram Ghatage, a resident. "Now our jamun trees are laden with fruits. We are trying to figure out how to harvest and preserve them," he says.

Community farms set up in common areas (1,000 to 2,000sqft) can provide a consistent supply of fresh, pesticide-free vegetables to apartment residents.

HSR Citizen Forum manages a community garden spread across 5,000sqft

Schools are also joining in. Orchids The International School and Apollo National Public School have integrated community farming into their curriculum, educating children on food, economics, and circular systems.

Lessons Learnt, New Plans Ahead

While leaving her corporate career in 2016, Anamika Bist wanted to chase something slower, and perhaps older. She wanted people to feel the soil again. That served as the seed of Village Story, Bengaluru's most recognisable community farming experiment. What began as a handful of workshops soon grew into farmers markets, composting sessions, and community farming. The experiment was paused during the pandemic. Now, after a decade of learning, the team is readying a pivot. "The next chapter is under wraps," smiles Bist.

Sprawling Community Garden

A farming community, which is part of HSR Citizen Forum, grows vegetables at Swachagraha Kalika Kendra, guided by Dr Shanthi, a medical professional and environmentalist. This 5,000sqft space has since become a living example of how citizens can come together to create a greener and healthier neighbourhood. "We meet at the garden regularly, share our knowledge of digging, sowing, weeding and watering, and enjoy community farming together. Beyond farming, these interactions have fostered a deep sense of community spirit," says Rajini Bopaiah, founder member of HSR Citizen Forum, who is part of the initiative, adding the harvest is shared among the members.

The team also distributes seeds, saplings, compost, and surplus produce to gardening enthusiasts across HSR Layout. The compost generated at Swachagraha Kalika Kendra is regularly supplied to residents who wish to nourish their plants, thereby extending the benefits of the initiative far beyond its boundaries, says Bopaiah.

Farming As Weekend Recreation

Some opt for community farming on the weekends on the outskirts of the city by leasing small plots of land and growing vegetables. For a small fee, you get a 20x20 plot to grow your chosen produce, says Arunkumar Sivanesan, a software engineer and resident of Harsha Landmark Apartment.

A farmer handles land preparation, sowing, and upkeep, while families engage in weekend cultivation and crop monitoring, fostering a rewarding connection with their food. "It is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Families get a unique recreational experience and chemical-free food. Farmers receive a steady source of income and community support," says Sivanesan, who used to rent land at a community farm in Whitefield, along with five of his apartment buddies.

GREEN COMMUNITY

B'luru residents Sameer Shisodia and Shubha Ramachandran are part of a unique farming community — The Tamarind Valley Collective in Thagatti, Tamil Nadu. Around 50 families jointly own a 100-acre farm. They cultivate millets, tamarind, groundnuts and vegetables while regenerating the natural landscape for native plants. Produce is shared amongst the residents. Residents make decisions together and experiment with a living style that reduces consumption and incorporates naturally supported cyclical systems. For instance, homes made of natural materials like mud. The project welcomes visitors.

> Seasonal greens, gourds, cabbage, brinjal, tomatoes, chillies, and beans thrive in the fertile soil, enriched by compost produced from segregated kitchen waste. Fruit trees like gooseberry, avocado, and dragon fruit add diversity and beauty to the landscape. The harvest is shared among volunteers. The community garden has also become a learning centre, demonstrating practical aspects of composting and urban farming.
> **Rajini Bopaiah** | FOUNDER MEMBER OF HSR CITIZEN FORUM AND VOLUNTEER AT SWACHAGRAHA KALIKA KENDRA

LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

Speaker	Conversation in Kannada	Meaning in English
Passenger	namaskaara, ee bus Majestic-ge hoguttaa ideyaa?	Hello, does this bus go to Majestic?
Conductor	howdu sir, bEga hatti.	Yes sir, please get in quickly.
Passenger	nanage Majestic-ge ondu ticket koDi.	Give me one ticket to Majestic.
Conductor	ippattu rupaayi koDi.	Please give me Rs 20.
Passenger	nanna hattira nagadu illa. UPI moolaka paavati maaDabahudaa?	I don't have cash with me. Can I pay using UPI?
Conductor	sari, ticket tagoLLi mattu aNa vargaavaNe maahiti tOrisi.	Show me the 'payment complete' UPI transaction status.
Passenger	aaytu, nODi. Majestic ge taluPalu eSHTu samaya aagutte?	Done, please see. How long will it take to reach Majestic?
Conductor	dhanyavaadagaLu. sumaaru ondu gaNTe hadinaidu nimiSha aagutte.	Thank you. It will take approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.
Conductor	sanchaara daTTaNe iddare innU ardha gaNTe taDa aagabahudu.	If there is traffic, it may be delayed by another half an hour.
Passenger	kutkoLLOke ondu seatU kooDa khaali illa.	There isn't even one empty seat to sit.
Passenger	naanu munde hOgabahudaa? alli eraDu seat khaali ive	Can I go to the front? There are two empty seats.
Conductor	illa, ondu seat mahiLeyarige / hengasarige meesalu, innondu hiriya naagarikarige meesalu. dayaviTTu hinde hOgi.	No, one seat is reserved for ladies and the other is reserved for senior citizens. Please go to the back.
Passenger	sari, artha aaytu.	Okay, understood.
Conductor	naavu Majestic talupidvi. dayaviTTu iLiri	We've reached Majestic. Please get down.
Passenger	dhanyavaadagaLu.	Thank you.

Kannada Word	English Meaning
mahiLeyaru / hengasaru	Women / Ladies
hiriya naagarika	Senior citizen
nagadu	Cash
meesalaati	Reserved / Reservation
sanchaara daTTaNe	Traffic

Singular	Plural
MahiLe	MahiLeyaru
Hiriya Naagarika	Hiriya Naagarikaru
Prayaanikanu	Prayaanikaru
Conductoru	Conductorgalu
Rupayi	Rupayigalu

Match the Following

Kannada words	English words
khaali	Payment
hatti	Through / By means of
artha	Reach
iLiri	Empty
talupu	Get down
moolaka	Understand
paavati	Get in / climb

QR code for answers for Exercise section 2 of the previous lesson

Winners of the May 30,2026 contest

Rashmi Raghavan | Ridhima Khanna | Swarnalata Philip

Exercises: Section2

Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice and upload the recording by scanning the QR code below by June 14, 2026 (Sunday), 11: 59pm. Top three submissions will be recognized the next publication.

Questions for the voice recording contest:

1. Can the passenger pay using PhonePe?
2. It will take take one hour 45 minutes to reach Majestic.
3. Why can't passengers sit in the front seats?
4. Traffic may cause a 15-minute delay in reaching Majestic.
5. How many seats are reserved for the ladies and senior citizens?
6. If you have a daily pass, you can get in and get down anywhere.

Toddlers choke to death while playing with rope

Two kids – Dhriti, 3, and 18-month-old Disha – died under mysterious circumstances in Saligrama taluk of Mysuru Friday.

Family told police the children were playing with ropes, which got entangled around their necks, causing them to choke to death. On discovering them, their mother Priyanka is said to have attempted suicide by hanging. She is undergoing treatment at a hospital. TNN

32001/391/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
BRUTANG & HADUA IRRIGATION PROJECT, DASAPALLA
E-mail: ccebhip@gmail.com

No. 615 Date: 12.06.2026

Notice Inviting Tender
"e" Procurement Notice No. CCE-BHIP-04/2026-27 Dt.12.06.2026
Bid identification No. CCE-BHIP-BID-04(01)/2026-27 Dt.12.06.2026

Invites online percentage rate tender in a double-cover through e-procurement for execution of the Building works (Civil, PH & Electrical).

1	Name of the Works:	01(One) number of Building work
2	Approximate Estimated cost:	**Rs. 2.53 Crore**
3	Period of Completion:	**11 (Eleven)** months
4	Date and time of availability of: bid document in the portal	From 10.00 **hours of Dt. 19.06.2026 to 17.00 hours of Dt.10.07.2026**
5	Last date/time for receipt of: bids in the portal	**17.00 hours of Dt. 10.07.2026**
6	Date of Opening of Technical Bid:	**11:30 Hours of 13.07.2026**
7	Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	Chief Construction Engineer, Brutang & Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla, Nayagarh-752084. e-mail id :- **ccebhip@gmail.com**

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Brutang & Hadua Irrigation Project, Dasapalla
OIPR-32001/32535/1/26-27/0004

34001/331/2627

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B)
NIRMAN SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. S.E.E.C (R&B)18/2026-27
No. 2648 /Date 09.06.2026

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt.16.06.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt. 01.07.2026 up to 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt. 02.07.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website,

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR
OIPR-34001/34006/1/26-27/0018

32001/390/2627

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ବ୍ରୁଇଙ୍ଗ ଏବଂ ହାଡୁଆ ଜଳସେଚନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ,ଦଶପଲ୍ଲା, ନୟାଗଡ଼

ସଂଖ୍ୟା. 615 ତାରିଖ: 12.06.2026

ଟେଣ୍ଡର ଆମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ନୋଟିସ୍

"e" Procurement Notice No. CCE-BHIP-04/2026-27 Dt.12 .06.2026
Bid identification No. CCE-BHIP-BID-04(01)/2026-27 Dt.12.06.2026

ଜୋଡା ଘର (ସିଭିଲ, ପିଏଚ ଏବଂ ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ) କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ସମ୍ପାଦନ ପାଇଁ ଇ- ସଂଗ୍ରହଣ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଉଦ୍ଧୃତ ଭରଣରେ ଅପରାଇନ ଶତବନ୍ଦା ହାର ଟେଣ୍ଡର ଆମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରୁଛି ।

୧	କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ନାମ:	୦୧ (ଗୋଟି) ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଜୋଡା ଘର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ
୨	ଅନୁମାନ ମୂଲ୍ୟ:	୨.୫୩ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା
୩	କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରିବା ଅବଧି:	୧୧ (ଏଗାର) ମାସ ।
୪	ଦସ୍ତାବିଜଉପଲବ୍ଧତା ସମୟସୀମା ତାରିଖ ଓ ସମୟ:	ତା. ୧୯.୦୬.୨୦୨୬ ରୁ ୧୦.୦୦ ଘଣ୍ଟା ରୁ ତା. ୧୦.୦୭.୨୦୨୬ ରୁ ୧୨ .୦ ୦ ଘଣ୍ଟା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ।
୫	ଦସ୍ତାବିଜରେ ନିଲାମ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଦାଖଲର ଅନ୍ତିମ ତାରିଖ ଓ ସମୟ:	ତା. ୧୦.୦୭.୨୦୨୬ ରୁ ୧୨ .୦ ୦ ଘଣ୍ଟା
୬	ଦେଖାଯିବା ବିଡ୍ ଖୋଲିବାର ତାରିଖ:	ତା. ୧୩. ୦୭.୨୦୨୬ ରୁ ୧୧.୩୦ ଘଣ୍ଟା
୭	ନିଲାମ ଡାକିଥିବା ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ନାମ ଓ ଠିକଣା:	ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ,ବ୍ରୁଇଙ୍ଗ ଏବଂ ହାଡୁଆ ଜଳସେଚନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ, ଠିକଣା: ଦଶପଲ୍ଲା, ନୟାଗଡ-୭୫୨୦୮୪ ; ଇ-ମେଲ: ccebhip@gmail.com

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OIPR-32001/32535/1/26-27/0003

Night ride turns tragic: 2 nursing students ram bike into divider, die

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Syed Asif

FATAL SPOT: The nursing students were returning after a late-night ride when their bike crashed near Doddabele Junction on Mysuru Road Saturday

Bengaluru: A late-night joyride turned fatal for two young nursing students after their bike crashed into a divider near Doddabele Junction on Mysuru Road in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Atul and Gouri Shankar, both 21-year-old students of SJB College of Nursing in Kengeri.

Based on preliminary investigation, police said a group of students had gone for a jolly ride to Kanmanike on Mysuru Road to have coffee on their two-wheelers. Atul and Shankar were riding a Royal Enfield Himalayan motorcycle while returning. Between 2am and 2.15am, the rider lost control of the bike and crashed into the divider, throwing both riders onto the road.

The impact left the duo with severe injuries. Their friends riding on other two-wheelers, along with passersby, rushed them to the nearby Rajarajeshwari Hospital. However, both students succumbed to injuries. Police were alerted about their deaths only around 6am.

Kengeri traffic police have registered a case of self-accident against Atul. The bodies were handed over to their families after post-mortem examination, and further investigation is in progress, police said.

Minivan's deadly crash: 1 killed, 6 injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Screengrab

The minivan overturned and slammed into an electric pole on Mysuru Road

Bengaluru: A reckless driving incident involving a minivan near BDA Indraprastha Apartment in Kengeri on Mysuru Road claimed a life and left six others injured Saturday morning.

According to the complaint filed by Mallu, 23, an eyewitness, the minivan was travelling towards Kengeri around 6.45am when the driver lost control and swerved abruptly to the left. The van first crashed into a scooter and a bike. The impact caused the van to overturn and slam into an electric pole on the roadside.

The riders of the two-wheelers and Sukhdev, a 41-year-old resident of Marathahalli, who was travelling in the minivan, were thrown onto the road. Sukhdev died on the way to hospital. The injured include Parejan, the scooter rider, and Ashoka and Rahul, who were on the bike.

Preliminary probe suggests that rash and negligent driving by the driver, Swaroop Chand, 25, led to the chain-reaction collision. Kengeri traffic police have registered a case against him.

Mom killed, girl injured after bus hits 2-wheeler

Bengaluru: A 46-year-old woman was killed and her teenage daughter seriously injured after a school bus allegedly rammed their two-wheeler on Old Airport Road Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Kantha C, 46, while her 16-year-old daughter, Neha T, is undergoing treatment.

Kantha was dropping her daughter at college when the school bus hit the two-wheeler, causing both to fall on the road. Kantha died on the spot. The driver fled the scene. TNN

Curiosity takes flight as kids meet astronauts

Syed Asif

Residents and students interact with astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Air Commodore Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair at Brigade Millennium Apartments in JP Nagar Saturday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Children armed with questions about rockets, shooting stars and life aboard International Space Station (ISS) turned a community interaction into an animated conversation Saturday, as astronauts Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Air Commodore Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair engaged with residents and students at Brigade Millennium Apartments in JP Nagar.

The event, organised by Millennium Elders Forum, whose president BN Suresh is the chancellor of Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), drew 100 to 150 participants, including 50-70 children from the apartment complex.

Shukla, the first Indian astronaut to visit International Space Station (ISS), and Nair, an astronaut-designate for India's Gaganyaan mission, were greeted by eager young minds keen to understand the realities of space exploration.

Shukla offers glimpse into life beyond earth

The children posed a range of questions, from how astronauts train for missions and what it takes to become one, to why space capsules land in water, how shooting stars appear from space and the challenges involved in designing heat shields.

Shukla also shared his experiences of travelling to space and living aboard ISS, offering the audience a glimpse into life beyond Earth.

The astronauts encouraged students to remain curious, pursue their interests sincerely and enjoy the process of learning.

They stressed persistence and willingness to explore new ideas were as important as academic achievement.

—Nyssa N Jain

Celebrating legacy of cartoonist Maya Kamath

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

This year's international contest, themed on gender justice and women's rights, drew entries from 1,078 cartoonists of 75 countries

Bengaluru: On a cloudy Saturday morning, a hall filled to the brim largely with cartoonists from across the country gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of one of the city's most celebrated artists — the late Maya Kamath.

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists, in association with the Kamath family, marked the 75th birth anniversary of the cartoonist, who passed away in 2001, with the prize distribution ceremony of Maya Kamath International Cartoon Contest and presentation of Barton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Excellence in Cartooning to veteran cartoonist Subhani Shaikh.

This year's international contest, themed on gender justice and women's rights, drew an overwhelming response, attracting entries from 1,078 cartoonists representing 75 countries.

The prize for Maya Kamath International Cartoon Contest and the Barton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Excellence in Cartooning was presented to veteran cartoonist Subhani Shaikh

An exhibition featuring the works of the foreign cartoonists selected for this year's awards will remain open to the public at the Indian Cartoon Gallery until June 27.

As former colleagues and fellow artists reminisced about Maya's sharp wit, distinctive style and enduring influence, it was her nine-year-old granddaughter Yamini who perhaps captured the essence of her artistry most poignantly: "She did not draw too many lines, she just drew enough," Yamini said.

Those economical yet powerful strokes of Maya once chronicled the city, politics and society with remarkable clarity, fellow artists pointed out.

Even 25 years after her passing, the lines Maya drew continue to inspire generations of cartoonists.

Apply to perform on music day

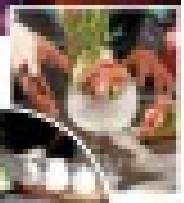
Bengaluru: Rangoli Metro Art Center (RMAC) at MG Road Metro Station has invited musicians and music lovers from across Bengaluru to participate in World Music Day celebrations on June 21.

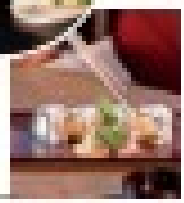
According to a press release by BMRCL, the event will provide an open platform for artists of all ages and musical genres. A major attraction will be Bengaluru's popular Community Drum Jam, led by noted musicians Vasundhara Das and Roberto Narain.

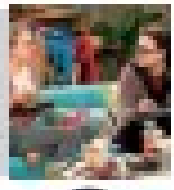
Musicians can register by emailing at rangoli@bmrc.co.in or in person at RMAC between 11am and 5pm, before June 19. TNN

Opening glitz & viral beats

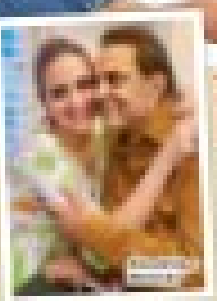
Celebrate the art of sushi at this Japanese restaurant ahead of International Sushi Day







There can never be another Hema Malini or Dharmendra: Esha Deol



I wanted to be a cricketer: Jasleen Royal

No ID scan at pubs, legal drinking age stays 21: HM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: If you are heading out for a drink this weekend or later, relax. You don't have to hand over your identification cards to pub owners or let them scan and store your personal data.

Clearing the air following panic and misinterpretation among party-goers and restaurateurs, home minister Priyank Kharge said there is absolutely no change in the state's legal drinking age or data collection rules. The minimum age for purchasing and consuming alcohol in Karnataka remains 21 years.

The clarification came on the back of recent notifications targeting underage drinking, which some sections of the hospitality industry had misread as a blanket mandate to log details of every single customer.

"Alcohol-serving establishments are not required to check and store the ID of every individual, as some have interpreted. They are expected to verify the ID of those who appear to be below 21 years of age and deny entry unless they are accompanied by adults," he said in a post on X.

Any lapse in maintaining this vigilance will be dealt with by the authorities.

K-Ride floats tenders for depot; 26 acres acquired

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd (K-Ride) has floated a tender for the construction of Soladevanahalli train maintenance depot for Bengaluru suburban rail project (BSRP). The project is estimated to cost Rs 200 crore.

The proposed depot will support operations and maintenance of trains running on Baiyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara and Heelalige–Rajankunte suburban rail corridors, including corridor 4.

The agency has already acquired 26 acres of private land for the facility. The depot will include stabling lines, workshop lines, inspection and repair bays, and a fully automated coach washing plant.

The depot will have solar power generation systems and rainwater harvesting.

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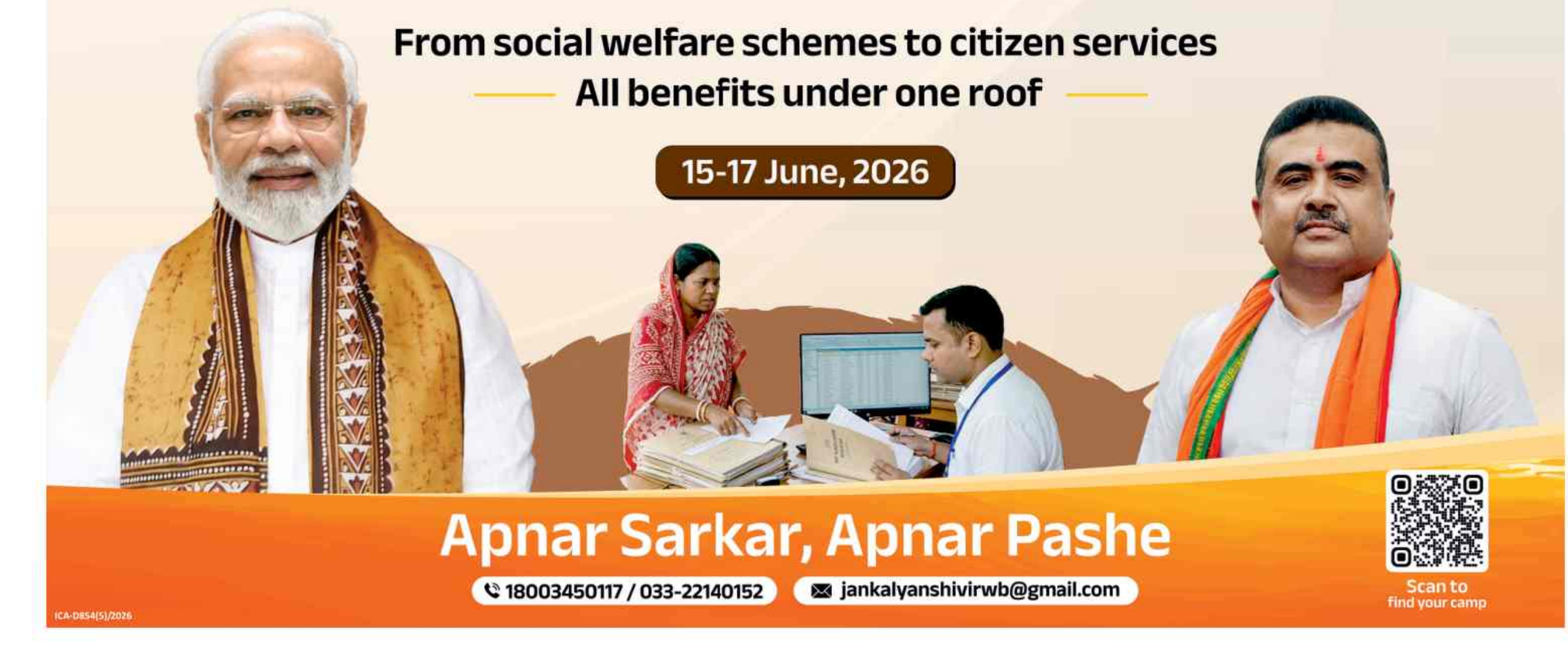

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Bidadi township row: Farmers escalate stir, rally on June 22

Pearl.DSouza
@timesofindia.com

File photo

> Our fight will not fail for any reason; it will be successful, because govt's move is anti-farmer. If he (DK Shivakumar) is truly a farmer's son, he should not trouble farmers. The tears of farm women will haunt. Such excesses are not good
> — A farmer

DISCUSSION: DK Shivakumar held a meeting with representatives of farmers on Bidadi integrated township project in Bengaluru on May 20

Bengaluru: The opposition to chief minister DK Shivakumar's ambitious project near Bidadi, touted as India's first AI-powered integrated township, is set to intensify.

After more than 550 days of continuous roadside protests, agitating farmers joined by prominent agrarian bodies, have called for a large-scale protest on June 22 to strongly oppose the govt's final notification to acquire 499 acres of land for the first phase of Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT).

The proposed protest, expected to draw over 5,000 people, marks a major escalation in the standoff over Shivakumar's ambitious project. The final notification covers 499 acres across three villages in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks, serving as the first phase of a massive 7,481-acre master plan.

Farmers are also planning a 'Vidhana Soudha chalo' march and a Punjab-style of agitation. A state-level consultation on June 16 will finalise the date for the march. Former Byramangala taluk panchayat member HG Prakash revealed that growers from Punjab and Haryana are expected to join the Bengaluru rally, with details already shared with farmer leaders in Delhi.

Prakash alleged a "deep-rooted conspiracy", claiming that smaller villages with landholdings under 5 acres are being targeted first. He also claimed that politicians and acquisition officers used insider information to purchase land in the area through benami transactions before the project became public.

The issue has sparked a high-decibel political row. Reaffirming their resolve to defend their livelihoods, a farmer alleged a "real estate" agenda behind the acquisition.

Stepping up the attack, opposition leader R Ashoka targeted the CM on social media, warning that Congress govt would be reduced to ashes in the flames of farmers' anger. Ashoka promised that if BJP returns to office in 2028, it will scrap the entire acquisition, adding, "Any township built at the expense of farmers' livelihood is not development; it is the graveyard of their future."

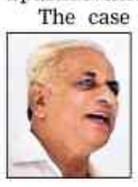
Union minister and JD(S) senior functionary HD Kumaraswamy dared the CM to personally visit the affected villages to verify if any landowner actually supported the move.

The governing camp, however, called out the opposition's "double standards".

The CM's brother and former MP, DK Suresh, hit back at Kumaraswamy, pointing out that the Bidadi township project was originally his own brainchild. Suresh noted that Kumaraswamy himself had taken the initial steps to launch the township during his tenure as the chief minister in 2006, questioning why he was opposing it now.

FIR against Bhagawan for remarks on scriptures

Davanagere: Police registered an FIR against writer and rationalist **KS Bhagawan** over alleged derogatory and provocative remarks concerning Hindu beliefs and sacred texts during a public event earlier this week.



The case was registered Friday by Harihara Rural police following a complaint by Dinesh, a resident of KR Nagar in Harihar. According to the complaint, Bhagawan made the remarks on June 9 while addressing a Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti programme at Hanagawadi village, held to mark the birth anniversaries of social reformer B Krishnappa and Dr BR Ambedkar.

Based on the complaint, Bhagawan has been booked under Sections 196(1)(a) and 299 of BNS.

The retired professor has a history of triggering controversies with his critiques of mainstream Hindu scriptures and has faced threats from right-wing groups. TNN

Resort politics back with council poll number game

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesofindia.com

The high-stakes battle places Shivakumar at the centre of the storm as the Congress Legislature Party meets at a resort in Bidadi two days before the polls

Bengaluru: Luxury resorts on the city's outskirts are back in business as political nerve centres. With a fierce numbers game brewing over a single seat in the June 18 legislative council elections, the governing Congress and opposition JD(S) have tucked away their legislators in private properties to guard them against cross-voting and absenteeism.

What should have been a routine poll for seven Upper House seats has turned into a political thriller.

The script changed the moment JD(S), led by Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, jumped into the fray for the critical seventh seat, upsetting Congress calculations.

Eight candidates are fighting for seven seats, and each needs a minimum of 28 votes from MLAs to win.

Based on current strength in the 224-member assembly, Congress (134 MLAs) can comfortably win four seats of the council, while BJP (62 MLAs) can bag two.

The real battle is for the final seat. After electing four candidates, Congress will have a surplus of 22 votes, leaving it six short of a fifth victory. On the other hand, JD(S) has 18 MLAs. Even if it gets all six surplus votes from its alliance partner BJP, it will still fall four votes short of the magic number. Both sides are now aggressively wooing independents, smaller parties, and unattached MLAs.

The high-stakes battle places chief minister DK Shivakumar at the centre of the storm, as the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meets at a resort in Bidadi, Bengaluru South, Tuesday, two days before the polls. While a win will cement his reputation as a master strategist, a loss would hand Kumaraswamy a massive political victory.

While the opposition mocks the governing party for lacking confidence in its own flock, Congress functionaries maintain the resort stay is purely a strategy and training exercise.

Public works department minister Satish Jarkiholi defended the move of Congress party, saying the meeting was held to train MLAs.

"MLAs should not make mistakes while voting. Even two or three invalid votes can result in a candidate losing. The meeting is aimed at ensuring preparedness, security and strategy," he said.

Will take charge only after clarity: KBG

Bengaluru: Ten days after being sworn in, senior minister Krishna Byre Gowda Saturday indicated he will not assume charge of Bengaluru development portfolio until CM DK Shivakumar grants him full control over the city's key planning agencies or an alternative portfolio.

> The CM and the party have given me the responsibility of looking after Bengaluru development. This is a difficult challenge. I don't see it as a power because this is a big responsibility amid huge expectations from the people of Bengaluru, as well as from the CM and the party
> **Krishna Byre Gowda** | MINISTER

PORTFOLIO ISSUE

Gowda, who recently visited Delhi to seek the party high command's intervention, is said to be unhappy that the CM retained direct control over Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA). While Gowda has been assigned Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), five city corporations, water board (BWSSB) and Namma Metro, he believes handling the city's development without its primary planning arms will cripple his ability to deliver results.

Returning from Delhi, Gowda insisted his stand is about accountability to the public, not hunger for power. "I would like to state clearly that I don't have any disgruntlement. The CM and the party have given me the responsibility of looking after Bengaluru development. This is a difficult challenge. I don't see it as a power because this is a big responsibility amid huge expectations from the people of Bengaluru, as well as from the CM and the party," he added.

He emphasised that he will not log into work without absolute functional clarity. "If not, I will not be able to work as per expectations and won't be able to deliver results as expected. Because whenever I take up any responsibility, there is accountability in delivering results for the expectations placed by the people and the party," Gowda added.

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BJP slams govt for D'sthala row

Bengaluru: The opposition BJP Saturday launched a dual attack on Congress govt, alleging a multi-crore scam in the flagship Anna Bhagya scheme and accusing it of backing a failed conspiracy to defame the sacred Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala pilgrimage centre.

Opposition leader R Ashoka claimed a massive conspiracy against the revered religious institution of Dharmasthala collapsed after chief complainant, Chinnayya, stated he had been used as a pawn to malign the temple town. TNN

CM: Officials warned against giving in to caste pressure

▶ Continued from page 1

Cases of extortions will be evaluated too," the CM added.

Asked about a timeline, he said: "I have just decided to start this campaign. I am confident I will be able to make Karnataka corruption free." Shivakumar said officials have been warned against succumbing to pressure. "Officials have been told not to entertain requests to do anything illegal and not to bow to pressure from ministers over caste compulsions."

To encourage sports, culture and public engagement among youngsters, the state will establish Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas in 6,000 gram panchayats (GPs) and 4,000 towns. Those between 16 and 40 years will be eligible to participate in the sanghas. The govt will provide Rs 10 lakh per panchayat to support local talent.

As part of a wider clean-up of the state's flagship guarantee schemes, Shivakumar said the govt will verify beneficiaries under Gruha Lakshmi scheme by asking suspicious beneficiaries to submit fresh applications with photographs through local bodies and GPs. He said pilot audits in Davanagere and Bagalkot had revealed invalid mobile numbers and inconsistencies in beneficiary records.

> **Booth-level officers will visit households up to three times. Everyone should ensure they fill enumeration forms and give them back to BLO to retain your voting rights**
> **DK SHIVAKUMAR**
> Chief minister

Shivakumar said the govt estimates that around Rs 100 crore under Gruha Lakshmi scheme had been transferred to deceased beneficiaries.

The CM also announced new CSR guidelines aimed at strengthening rural education and reducing migration to cities. Corporates will be permitted to display their brand names and upgrade schools to Karnataka Public School model, provided they adhere to govt-prescribed infrastructure standards. The state is also considering rationalisation of schools with very low enrolment.

Shivakumar also directed authorities to plan ring roads for all taluk and district headquarters to ease congestion and improve connectivity.

Drawing lessons from financial scams such as IMA, he said police and revenue officials had been asked to identify and monitor fraudulent investment and high-interest loan networks.

With the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision exercise scheduled later this month, the chief minister directed officials to expedite the issuance of residential certificates to eligible residents.

"Booth-level officers will visit households up to three times. Everyone should ensure they fill enumeration forms and give them back to BLO to retain voting rights," he said.

He noted that Karnataka is currently facing a 30% rainfall deficit.

HC: Speaker to decide on MLAs' prosecution

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has ruled that it is for the legislative assembly speaker to reconsider the application seeking a sanction for the prosecution of five political figures, including Union minister HD Kumaraswamy, in an alleged 2019 'Operation Kamala' case.

Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav cited a Supreme Court judgment in a case involving former prime minister late PV Narasimha Rao that it was necessary to obtain the sanction of the Lok Speaker speaker or Rajya Sabha chairman for filing a chargesheet against a member of Parliament.

The judge said the same logic holds good in the legislative assembly too.

The case before the high court arose from a complaint filed by social activist TJ Abraham before Anti-Corruption Bureau in 2020. He claimed it had been reliably learnt that then Kolar MLA K Srinivas Gowda brought it to the notice of then chief minister Kumaraswamy that he (Gowda) had received Rs 5 crore from BJP representatives — SR Vishwanath, Ashwath Narayan CN and CP Yogeshwar — for defecting to the party. Gowda informed Kumaraswamy that the money was spent, but he had to return the amount, the activist claimed.

To retain Gowda back in the JD(S) fold, the then CM arranged for Rs 5 crore to be returned by Gowda, the activist had alleged.

Abraham then registered a private complaint before a special court, seeking action against the accused under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act and also under IPC. The accused challenged the proceedings, and the high court set aside the order of taking cognizance due to want of sanction.

The special court was also directed to obtain a sanction for the prosecution.

In March, 2022, Abraham sought sanction to proceed against the five politicians.

SHORT TAKES

Cockroach Janta Party protest in B'luru today; Sonam Wangchuk may attend

After a series of protests across the country, Cockroach Janta Party chief spokesperson Saurav Das Saturday announced there will be a peaceful protest at Bengaluru's Freedom Park at 4pm, Sunday. He said it will be attended by civil rights activists, environmentalists and also have students speak up about how NEET paper leak impacted their lives. "We demand accountability and the resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. We will also talk about the exam manifesto released recently," Saurav said.

STs should get two more cabinet berths: Jarkiholi

Public works department minister Satish Jarkiholi Saturday said Scheduled Tribe (ST) community should be given greater representation in DK Shivakumar's cabinet and sought two more berths. Jarkiholi, who belongs to ST community, said the demand for two additional positions is a continuation of the representation it previously enjoyed.

Nirmala Sitharaman offers prayers at Udupi mutt

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Sri Krishna Mutt Saturday and offered prayers during her visit to coastal Karnataka. Sitharaman arrived at the temple town of Udupi and had darshan of Lord Krishna. She met Sri Vedavardhana Tirtha Swamiji of Shiroor Mutt, the current Paryaya Swamiji administering Sri Krishna Mutt. The minister also visited Shree Mahalakshmi Temple, Uchhila, and Sri Hosa Marigudi Temple, where she offered prayers.

Muniyappa: Industrial effluents polluting water

At the CM and ministers' meeting with administrators Saturday, food minister KH Muniyappa, expressed concern over effluents and hazardous chemicals being discharged from industrial units in Bashettihalli industrial area of Doddaballapur taluk. "They are entering drinking water sources. A common effluent treatment plant should be immediately set up," he said.

Fight for payout turns murky, farmer hits clerk with slipper

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

UGLY SCENE: Basappa Doddamani (R) attacks official Neelakanth Ankad in Bagalkot Saturday

Bagalkot: A farmer allegedly hit a first division clerk (FDC) of Bagalkot Town Development Authority (BTDA) with a slipper during a protest in Navanagar, Bagalkot, Saturday. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

The incident occurred when Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (DSS) activists were picketing the BTDA office, demanding the sanction of sites for safai karmacharis that had been pending for a year.

Farmer Basappa Doddamani told DSS activists that although his four-acre agricultural land was submerged in Krishna river 10 years ago, BTDA officials have not released compensation. As a verbal clash broke out with FDC Neelakanth Ankad, Doddamani took off his slipper and hit him. A tense situation prevailed in the office for a while, following which Ankad went to the chairman's chamber.

BTDA chairman Prakash Tapashetti arrived at the spot and tried to convince the farmer. Doddamani alleged that BTDA had released compensation to some other farmers but not to him.

DSS activists raised slogans against BTDA over the delay in sanctioning compensation for farmers and sites for Safai Karmacharis.

Bagalkot SP Siddarth Goyal said BTDA employee Ankad has filed a complaint at Navanagar police station that Doddamani interrupted him from discharging his duties and uttered some unconstitutional words. "Investigation is on into the case," he added.

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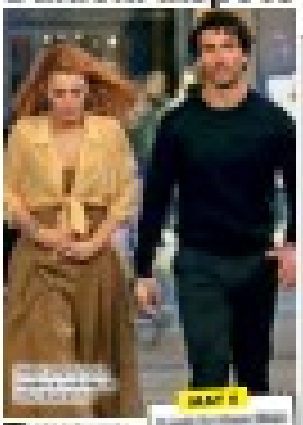
Blake Lively wins attorney fees in Justin Baldoni dispute



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Background

When Ricky Kej met Bhutan's King

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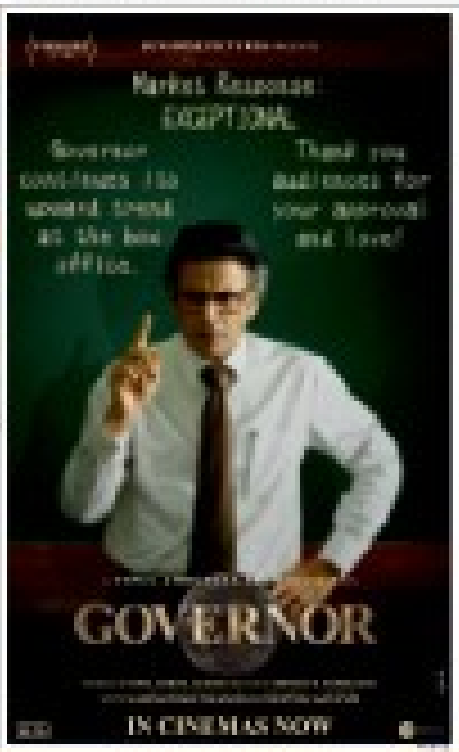
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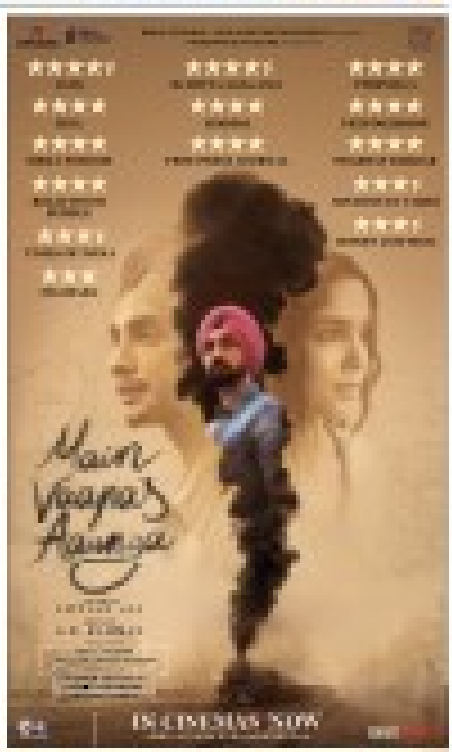

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that one Sri. **P.K. Venugopal Reddy**, son of of late Krishna Reddy has represented that he is the sole and absolute owner in possession, free of all encumbrances over the immovable property being 10000 square feet of plot area, carved out of the larger extent of converted land comprised in New Survey No. 118/1, Khata no. 118/1/964, assigned New P.I.D. No. 14141667476, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk.

Pursuant to the negotiations, my client M/s. Emerald Developers, represented by its Managing partner Mr. Balaji Panem & the Land Owner have proposed to develop the said extent of 10,000 square feet on the basis of Joint Venture.

The aforesaid plot is morefully described in the Schedule written here under and hereinafter referred to as the " Schedule Property".

Any person/s having any manner of claim, right, title and/or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property or any part thereof shall file their objections to the proposed Joint Venture, together with supporting documents to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of the publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free of all encumbrances and my client shall proceed with the execution and registration of the proposed Joint Development Agreement in respect of the Schedule Property, without any further reference.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being vacant land measuring 10000 square feet (carved out of the larger extent of converted land comprised in erstwhile Survey No. 118, New Survey No. 118/1, Khata no. 118/1/964) assigned New P.I.D. No. 14141667476, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru 560 068, B.B.M.P. Singasandra,Ward No. 191 and bounded on the:

East by : Portion of land comprised in Sy. No.118/1,
West by : Sy. No.117,
North by : Road and
South by : remaining portion of land comprised in Sy. No.118/1.

Place : Bengaluru
Date :13/06/2026

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WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE, ANY BLOCK, 30x40 ANY FACE, DIRECT REGISTRATION. CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE, 4th 'B' BLOCK, near Kanakapura Main Road 40x60 SALE. Good Location. CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

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PRIME-LOCATION-BEST Residential plot of 3435sqft North East corner with 2000 SFT built up house for sale @ Mosque Rd cross Frazer Town. CT ANR Properties :9164273855

HEBBAL

Apartment for Sale
Zenith Karle (Next To Manyata Tech Park) 3BHK Apartment. Measurement- 2404 Sqft. 1st Floor. East Facing

ZENITH KARLE Apt. 3BHK East, 2404 Sft. 1st Flr.100% Vastu. 2Car park Rs.3.85 Cr, Slightly Nego. Call: 8897683059, 9035254423

KARLE ZENITH 3 BHK + Servant, 2428sft, Semi furn, 3car park, Premium community. World Class amenities. Rs.4Cr. Citilines : 97414-17120

SOBHA Petunia: 4 BHK 3560 sqft, 10th floor. Sale @ 4.10cr , G corp The Icon 3 BHK 2000 sqft@ 2.50CR.contact: 9886009804

HENNUR

PURVA'S Ready to move Tanisandra 12 acres 3bhk 2.9cr, 2 Bhk A Khata frm 49 lacs upto 85 lacs Hennur rd,99808 77447 , 9113235589 No brokerage

HSR LAYOUT

HSR LAYOUT
40x60 site For Sale Prime Location Price 42K Per Sft Nego. & Commercial Rental Income Building for sale 40x60 G+4 Floors Sale Price 24cr Rental Income 14L PM

40X60 SITE for sale prime location Price 42K & com-ercial Bldg 40x60 G+4 flrs. more details Call: Srinivas - 97414 53200 / 99455 85552

HSR sale Sector-2 30X40 Site with House Rs.5.25Cr. 40X60 East Facing site Good Location Rs.35000/sft Negotiable. Call: 9845004282/ 8217485370

SITE for Sale 40x60 HSR 7th Sector, 10th Main Road, East Facing Rs. 36000 Negotiable Contact. Aditya Realators .9845059625

INDIRA NAGAR

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY to Own Excellent Corner Site 8200 sqft. Near Krishna Temple, Indira Nagar. Contact : Midford - 9035100040, 9606500222

HAL 2nd stage near 80 feet road Indiranagar 30X40 East Facing with old house Good Location for sale Price Rs. 3.25 Cr. Call: 9448851979

OFF 80 ft Rd, In a gated society + Amenities 4BHK East facing Duplex flat with Pvt. terrace 3100sqft SBA, with 2 car parks for sale. Rs.3.80cr. 98450-07176

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

SALE at Swiss Town 4,700 sft South East Corner plot at premium location at 13,000 per sft. Call Rajender Agrawal 9886111960

6825 sqft lush Greenery pollution free site in chikkajala coconut,teak fruit trees.20 mins from Intl airport.villa/ weekend retreat owner.9448717222

JAKKUR

FOR SALE
Semi Commercial East Facing
5000 Sft PLOT
A Katha

NEXT TO Arkavathi Layout, Chokkanahalli, Rate 10,500/- Per Sq.ft. Contact Owner: 9886400201 / 9341257059

JAYANAGAR

SALE 30x50,40x60,45x90,50x75, 80x120 Residential & 30x40 Prime Commercial Property 60ft Rd JNR 4th T Blk Genuine Buyers Call GTV: 99864 90019.

FOR SALE: 3BHK Apartment, East Facing, 2nd Floor, Fully furnished in Posh locality at Jayanagar 4th T Block. For more details Call: 98801 51870.

PREMIUM SITES
AVAILABLE IN JAYANAGAR
40x60 & 50x80
EAST FACING
40x50 & 45x90
NORTH FACING

ALSO AVAILABLE
20x30,30x40,30x50,30x60 40x65,40x80,100x100, 100x150 Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756/ 98450 85042

PRIME COMMERCIAL SITES FOR SALE @ JAYANAGAR 4TH BLOCK 40x60 & 44x66

SUITABLE for Jewellers Sarees Showroom & Hotel Prime Locn SeriousBuyers only Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756/ 98450 85042

JC NAGAR

FOR SALE: Prime commercial property measuring 5109 Sq. Ft. situated on JC Nagar Main Road, opposite to Fun World with Plan sanction. Expected price Rs. 40,000 per Sq. Ft. Interested parties may contact 80952 64552 for further details.

JP NAGAR

CORNER RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR SALE KOTHANUR DINNE MAIN ROAD, RBI LAYOUT, GURU RAGHAVENDRA NAGAR, JPNAGAR 7TH PHASE, BENGALURU Area: 8,238 Sq. Ft. East Facing Both Sides 25 Feet Road ONLY GENUINE BUYERS BROKERS EXCUSE CONTACT + 91 9741792187

FOR SALE : New Grand Duplex House in JP Nagar 8th Phase, EF - 4 Flrs 3600 Sqft Built Up Area with Lift and 2 Car Parking + Rentals 45K, Price: 2.70 Cr. Call: 81057 66359.

SALE 30x40 South Facing old House In J.P.Nagar 1st Phase Rs.4.25 crore & 40x60 Sites In J.P.Nagar Various Phases, Brokers Excuse ct: 99003 29373

JUDICIAL LAYOUT

4000SQFT N/E Corner Plot For Sale Judicial Layout Jakkur. 40ft Rd on both Sides Buying commission Applicable Direct buyers only. WhatsApp Message only: 9663766492

4BHK, 4000 Sqft Luxury high end flats, Judicial layout gkvk, ONE Floor ONE Unit 100% floor FLAT Sale: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

KANAKAPURA ROAD

KANAKAPURA Road PTCL land, very prime location 36 acres available for sale/ JV. Genuine buyers please contact- 9739778973 / 8088593281

KORAMANGALA

Sale Koramangala 30x40 3Floors & 40X60 3Floors Residential Commercial Old Houses call Swamy 98451 04222 99451 18192

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NEAR JAIN MANDIR
60'x75' OLD BUNGALOW PLOT FOR SALE @ MADHAVNAGAR
Near GANDHINAGAR KUMARA-PARK RACE-COURSE
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IDEAL For RESIDENCE APARTMENTS /OFFICE READY BUYERS CALL: BANGALORE ESTATES 98450 54356 / 99800 77447

KUMBALGODU

FARM plots available near kumbalagudu with premium amenities, RS. 1599/- sqft sizes 5000 to 6300 sqft. Cont 9606342643.

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3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

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Sale-Flat 4 BHK, Vastu Compliant Flat-Sale. 2000sft. 25 year old. Lokapriya-9845162933

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

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AVAILABLE 30×40 SITE AT Kempegowda Layout 8th block D Sector close to 300 ft Road. Genius Buyers Contact Owner Directly - 9845099221.

NAGAWARA

SALE 4,000 Sqft Site @ Manyata Residency: Prime Location, 50'x80', East Facing, Vacant Site with Compound Wall, 30' Wide Road, Approved Layout, opp. to Park, Clear Titles. Asking Price: 22,000/Sqft, Slightly Negotiable. Call: Mahesh Rajareddy, Cell #8050521805

SALE BDA "Purely Residential" Site 30x50 Behind Purva Atmosphere Tanisandra, just 3 km from Manyata. 2 Cr Only. Call 9845442054

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5454 sft North-east corner shed on 60ft road with 40HP power on Andrahalli main rd, Peenya 2nd stage KSSIDC 1st allottee. Brokers strictly excuse. Rs.9cr nghl. Direct owner: 9686111709

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PURVA BLUBELLE RAJAJINAGAR Adjacent to Magadi Rd Metro Station 3BHK / 5BHK Luxurious 7 Star Amenities/Servantroom.Structure Completed, Finishing Started. Handover by MAY 2027.Only few Units left.100% Vastu. Contact-OWNER : 98440 27560.

3BHK, Pre-launched 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre. Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

LUXURY 3BHK for sale.All Amenities ,Close to Metro Station ,Orion Mall ,Iskcon Temple ,Possesion 1year.Call Mahesh 9845256677 No Brokers

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COMMERCIAL building for sale 4950 sqft g/f super market 2nd floor gym rental income 6 to 7 lakh near Sriram apartments Hebbal Contact 9448046717

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FOR RENT 5 BHK VILLA GATED COMMUNITY EAST FACING With 4 car park, Private garden, 90K/Month + Maintenance PH: 9880699967

50X80 Commercial Site Near CBI Ganganagar 40x60, Sahakaranagar Residential Site Good Location For Immediate Sale Call 9164565566

SANJAY NAGAR

SALE 40X60 WEST FACE BDA PRICE 25K PSFT. FULL CHEQUE SANJAY NAGAR AGENTS EXCUSE DIRECT BUYER CALL: 9844009992

SARJAPUR ROAD

SARJAPURA SALE
Luxurious New Flats
2BHK - 1098 SQFT
3BHK - 1505 SQFT
4BHK - 2390 SQFT

NEW FLATS at OC & CC Project @ Sarjapura-Attibele Rd. All Inc. Price Starts @ 65.87L Builder 9663696554 / 9008177000

SALE 3BHK Apartment @ Premier Inspira Maplewood: on Sarjapur Road. SBA 1,753 Sqft (UDS: 504 Sqft), 4th Floor, "C"-Wing, Semi-Furnished with Modular Kitchen, North Facing Door, Vaastu Compliant, 1 Car Park in Basement. Excellent Amenities and nearby to SEZs, Malls, Hospitals, Wipro Head Office (9 Minutes). Un-Occupied, Ready to Move-In. Asking Price: 1.60 Crores Slightly Negotiable. Call: Parathasarathy, Cell #9740450900

SALE 1acre to 5acre land & 1acre to 5acre land for Lease & rent suitable for Showroom & Warehouse Gowden. Call : 9343827680 / 9480238650

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3&4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, For details Contact 8088330330, www.govianu.com

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OC /CC Project, E-Katha Ready to move, close to metro, as per vastu, basic price Rs.9999/-per sft. 9886191552/ 7975626130

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SITE FOR SALE
60x90
RPC Layout
VIJAYNAGAR

PRIME LOCATION Site 60x90 West Facing WOC Road RPC Layout Only Genuine Buyers Contact: 6363250343/ 98450 38343

30X40FT North east corner with bore well fuly vasthu Binny layout chandra layout Blore 30000/sqft 9945479966

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

SEARCHING Houses/BDA sites around Nagarbhavi/ Visweswaraiah layout/Kengeri upanagara/ Nearby areas. Sellers Call Directly 9480255422.

WHITEFIELD

PRESTIGE white meadows #2113 Simplex 6652 Sft 4 BR, SPA, Central Aircon, SQ. Semi Furn, E.Fcng, 11F, Sale @ 11.66cr Owner 9315060379

YELAHANKA

FOR-SALE Truen Blue Napa Valley Built up - 2712 sft Plot area 43 x 63 Paid premium for Corner plot & 1000sq ft extra Garden area West Facing 3BHK Price : 8cr Broker Excuse. Call Rao : 86601 89539.

SALE: Yelahanka Judicial Layout Residential Site 7800 Sq.ft. East Facing, Price 20K Per Sft Brokers Excuse. Genuine Buyer ct: 91106 64819.

40X60 East & West facing BDA A Khatha Site for sale with good amenities. Yelahanka, Sathanuru near Country Club. Contact: 95134 99959

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HILL Station Farmland.. BALI THEME Buy 20 Cents (8720 sft) on 4000' Hill Top amidst forest greenery near Denkanikottai @ 555/-sft pls whatsapp 8951227668

FARMLAND Near KOLAR, Close to Highway, 1hr from Whitefield, Fully Grown Trees & Greenery, 6000 sft @ 750/-sft, Pls Cal: 8951227668 & Visit.

2 ACRES OF DEVELOPED FARMLAND FOR SALE NEAR HOSUR.CLEAR TITLE WITH ALL THE AMENITIES.CONT 9972372573

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BIDADI, RAMANAGAR, CHANNAPATTANA, NELAMANGALA, DEVANAHALLI, DABASPETE, STRR Road, HOSAKOTE

EXTENT of 1, 2, 5, 25 to 50 ACRES Suitable For Warehouse, Industrial, Villa Plots, Farmhouse. Interested Call: 9845 488488

1500 sft Semi Commercial Plot in RPC Layout, Vijayanagar. Prime location. 40ft Road. Near to Jain Temple. 30000 per sft. Ph : 9886581182.

MAGADI ROAD TAVAREKERE (Bangalore) 2 Acres, 1 Acre, 15 Guntas Farm Land Sale Rs. 2 crores/ Acre. Contact: 9243419641

SALE 10 Guntas highway commercial viable agricultural property on service road. 5 min drive from Devanahalli. Price 3.5 Crores. Call: 9880560293.

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

SITE FOR SALE
HBR LAYOUT 80FT ROAD
BDA COMMERCIAL
SOUTH FACING Rs.27,000/- Per Sqft
41x65 2665 Sqft
9845002913 / 9845064987

BDA Site at Arkavathi Layout for Sale First Block, Jakkur, Site No 1018 (North East Corner Site - very good for Vasthu) Measurement: (11.00 + 4.60)/2 (East to West) & 18 (North to South) = 140.40 Sq Mtrs. Total Area = 1511.27 Sq Ft. Site is 3 sides Surrounded by Roads with North 40ft East 40ft and South by 30ft 5 minutes approach to New Airport Road/up-coming Metro Station. Premier Locality with good infrastructure with Kaveri Water and surrounded by Sobha Academy, Opp to MSR Unicorn Heights. Contact No: 9845950789 & 9632577700

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE ON MAIN ROAD .NORTH EAST CORNER PROPERTY, NEAR MANYATHA TECH PARK 5049 Sq Ft. Contact :7406175115

HMT-LAYOUT Nagasandra plot for sale (Allotment Site) 30x40 North Facing 'A' Khata near CHRIST University 9945229737 / 9740092367

1200 sq.ft. Premium East-facing plot for sale at Sobha Chartered Woodpecker, Devanahalli. Price 96 Lakhs. Ph 9620067580

2-BHK For Sale in RR Nagar, behind Nimishamba temple.Car park,Lift,Balconies north entrc. Cont-9739378789

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Please contact RS&EK Groups at
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INDEPENDENT HOUSES

A 2 BHK Ground floor with open kitchen 600sqft fully furnished, having commercial Property license for immediate sale @ proper Ooty. Contact 8838266773/ 9965440290

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DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

MYSORE

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

TUMKUR

A) 1500SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, 200mtrs from NH4. 8088330330

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

FULLY Developed Clinic Available For Rent Malleshwaram with Consultation Rooms, Diagnostics, Radiology, Pharmacy, and Complete Amenities. Ideal for Medical Practitioners or Healthcare Groups. Serious Enquiries only. Contact: 99721 81837

COMMERCIAL Site for sale in Padmanabhanagar, near D G Hospital West Facing 45x70 Rate 40k full Cheque payment. Agents Excuse Call: 9741868566

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LALBAGH ROAD
4,200 Sq. Ft. Per FLOOR
Basement, Ground Floor, till 5 Floors

OPP. PASSPORT Office cross rd, Parking, Elevator & Power Back-up available. Suitable for WHOLESALERS & RETAILERS for Garments & Textile Dealers. Ct: 9845691971

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CALL : 9845772606

SPACIOUS 4½ Floor Building with 50 HP Power, 17000 sqft, Near Nagasandra Metro Station (approx. 1.5 km), Close to Christ University, Doddabidarakallu.

FOR RENT / SALE
FULLY FURNISHED OFFICE 3rd Floor
ON OLD AIRPORT ROAD
VDB TOUCHDOWN
Next to HAL Museum
7447 Sqft

96 WORK Stations 5 Cab 3 Meeting Room 1 Board 1 MD, 7 Carparks No Phone Calls Whats App Message Only To: 9845031550

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FOR SALE Prime Land 1 Acre on ECC Road, Whitefield

Last 1 Acre LAND on this road

(4057 Sq Mts or 43,664 SFT). DIM 61 x 71 x 58 x 62 meters with 2 houses for **OUTRIGHT** sale only. Great location. Surrounded by leading **Tech-Parks, Schools and Hospitals.**

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Contact Rasona: WhatsApp +916366641890

LEASE & RENT

SHOWROOM for RENT 600sft each- Ground floor (13KV power) and 3rd floor at Dr. Rajkumar Road opp: SBI 4th N Block Rajajinagar M-9113000306

COMMERCIAL retail space sale- Sahakar nagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale at Yelahanka, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL space for storage/ office - 2400sqft @ 65/- sqft, 16th main 17th cross BTM 2nd stage NS palya, Bengaluru-560076 CONT : 9986160662

3600 sqft. (900 sqft x 4 Floors) Full Commercial Building Available for RENT. at OTC Road, Balepete Main Road. CONTACT : 9916235959

RENT 2400sqft Built area 1000sqft Open Space,1st Floor, 3rd Block Jayanagar opp Madavan Park, above Bramins Cafe Ph: 9845004514/ 9845228043

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CONTACT:
9849564643

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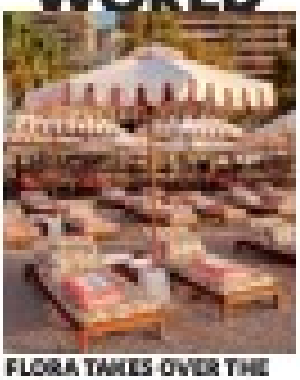
How coral vanilla breakfast notes, milk perfumes are becoming the fragrance world's latest fashion

Emotional perfumes over bold fragrances

What milk perfumes smell like

How is it made

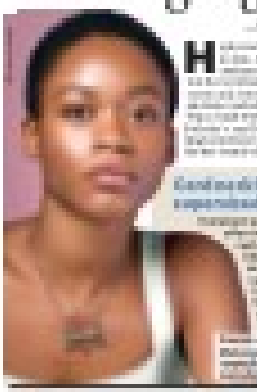
WINDOW TO THE WORLD



FLORA TAKES OVER THE MONACO COASTLINE

GOLD GETS PRICIER ON YOUR WRIST

Defining high jewellery trends of 2026

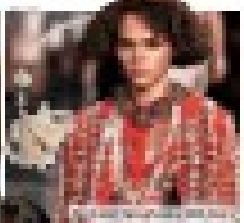


Gemstones with supernatural pendants

Quirky, playful designs

Longer-than-life designs

Coloured gemstones



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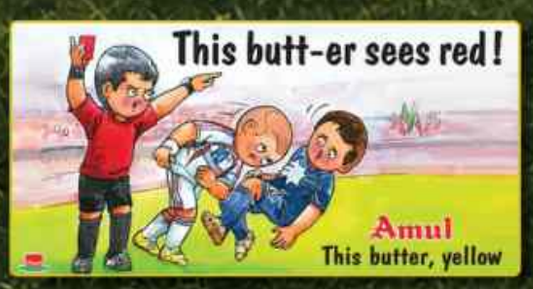
World Cup through the years...

Football Legend, Diego Maradona, takes the world by storm in the 1986 World Cup.

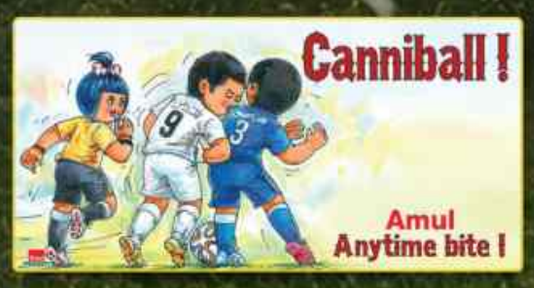
The Brazilian Stars of the 2002 World Cup: Ronaldo and Rivaldo.



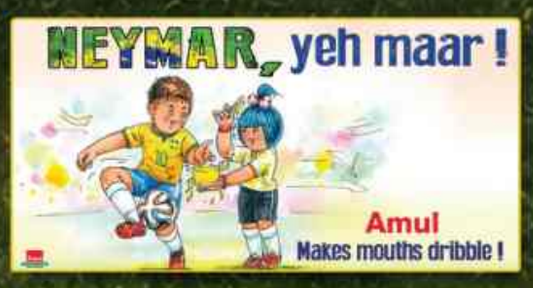
The French captain, Zinedine Zidane, was sent off for viciously head-butting the Italian defender in the chest during the 2006 World Cup Final.

'Waka Waka': The Official Song of the 2010 Football World Cup.

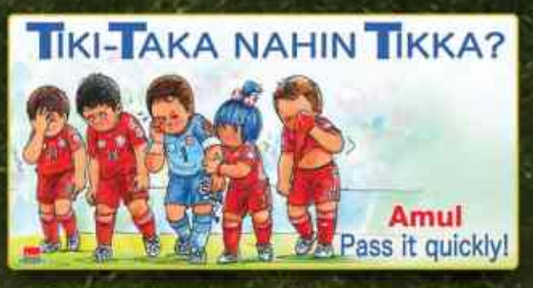
Octopus Paul predicting the outcome of the 2010 World Cup final.



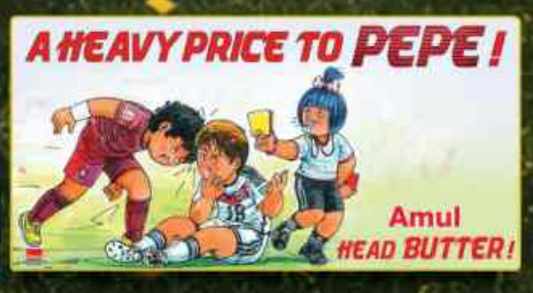
Uruguay striker Luis Suárez bit an opponent during a 2014 World Cup match.



Neymar was Brazil's standout performer during the 2014 World Cup.



Spain suffered a shocking group-stage exit in the 2014 World Cup.



Portuguese player, Pepe, was sent off during the 2014 World Cup for head-butting Thomas Müller.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a sensational hat-trick against Spain!

Spain, Portugal, and Argentina all exited early in the 2018 World Cup.

Belgium defeated Brazil in the quarter-finals of the 2018 World Cup.

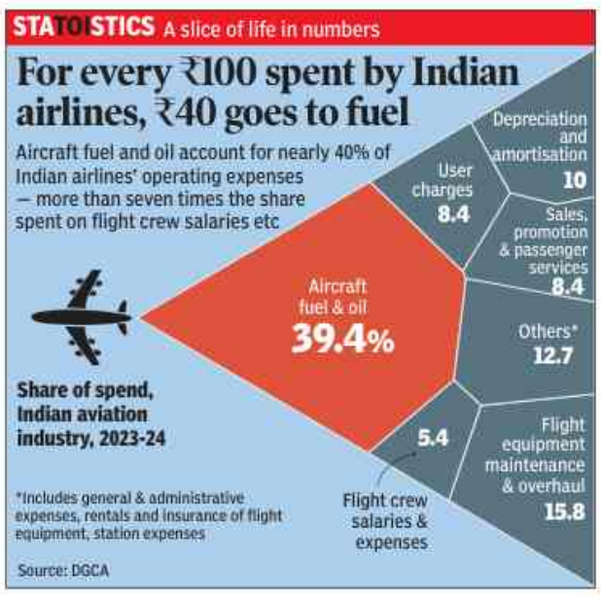
France won their second World Cup trophy in 2018!

Amul is the proud regional sponsor of the Argentina team for 2022 World Cup.

Argentina win their third World Cup in 2022.

Football World Cup 2026 kicks off in Mexico, Canada and the USA!

daCunha/AB/06-26_01/Eng


STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers
For every ₹100 spent by Indian airlines, ₹40 goes to fuel
Aircraft fuel and oil account for nearly 40% of Indian airlines' operating expenses — more than seven times the share spent on flight crew salaries etc
Aircraft fuel & oil 39.4%
User charges 8.4
Depreciation and amortisation 10
Sales, promotion & passenger services 8.4
Others* 12.7
Flight equipment maintenance & overhaul 15.8
Flight crew salaries & expenses 5.4
Share of spend, Indian aviation industry, 2023-24
*Includes general & administrative expenses, rentals and insurance of flight equipment, station expenses
Source: DGCA

UP govt sets up SIT to probe Ram temple 'funds swindle'

Trust Denies Allegations, Says Inquiry Will Counter 'Misinformation'

Pathikrit Chakraborty & Shalabh | TNN

Lucknow: UP constituted a three-member SIT Saturday to probe allegations of embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The move follows a formal request by the temple trust, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, seeking a govt-led investigation after Pawan Pandey, a former SP MLA from Ayodhya, made the allegations last week. The panel has been asked to submit a preliminary report within seven days and a final report within 15 days, according to people in the know.

The temple trust denied the allegations but, as public scrutiny intensified, urged CM Yogi Adityanath to order a probe, saying it would establish the facts and counter "misinformation". Following this request, Adityanath ordered the SIT to be set up. The probe assumes significance given the enormous volume of donations received by the temple from devotees across India and abroad.

The panel has been asked to submit a preliminary report within seven days and a final report within 15 days

Earlier on Saturday, Ram temple construction committee chief Nripendra Mishra refused to comment on the donation-related allegations, saying his responsibility was limited to supervising building works. Mishra arrived in Ayodhya to attend a meeting of the construction committee to review ongoing projects related to the temple complex.

The SIT is headed by Lucknow divisional commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant. Other members include Lucknow range IG Kiran S, who recently returned to UP after stints with CBI and Interpol, and Neelratan Kumar, special secretary in the finance department with over 36 years of experience.

Officials said the SIT would scrutinise how donation collections were handled and the internal control mechanisms in place. Investigators are expected to examine records related to donation counting, cash handling, storage, and supervision, and also question employees and former staff connected with the temple administration.

After ex-MLA Pandey made the allegations, SP president Akhilesh Yadav highlighted the issue in social media posts, echoing the claims and pressing for investigations. The trust rejected the allegations then and claimed no irregularities came to light during routine audits before calibrating its stance and seeking a probe.

SEBI considering AI guidelines for capital markets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering introducing detailed guidelines governing the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in India's capital markets, the agency's chairman **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** has said.

"SEBI is working on a framework for the safe and responsible adoption of AI across the capital markets ecosystem. We support the use of secure and safe AI with a Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) approach, ensuring that critical decisions continue to involve human supervision," Pandey at the ET NOW Markets Summit, 2026.

The regulator said the Indian capital market remained resilient despite global challenges.

"One challenge after another, from tariffs to oil price shocks, artificial intelligence disruption and FPI outflows, yet India's market and investor sentiment have remained resilient," Pandey said, adding that Indian markets have helped raise over Rs 1.5 lakh crore through equity and corporate bond issuances while maintaining a robust IPO pipeline.

The agency's chairman also highlighted the growing importance of retail participation in India's financial markets. "SIP assets account for nearly 21% of mutual fund assets and volatility must not damage investor sentiment," Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

Amid speculation of a split, Uddhav calls all MPs to Mumbai

Chaitanya.Marpakwar@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Amid TMC crisis and speculation that two-thirds of his party MPs are planning a move to deputy CM Eknath Shinde's Sena, Sena UBT chief **Uddhav Thackeray** summoned all his MPs to Mumbai on Saturday. He will meet them on Sunday. Sena UBT has 9 MPs in LS, and any split will require at least 6 MPs to meet the two-thirds majority mark.

Political observers said it will be important to see how many turn up on Sunday as some MPs like Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani) have skipped recent party meetings.

Sena UBT functionaries said reaching the two-thirds mark won't be easy, especially when three party MPs are from Mumbai and are committed to Matoshree. Uddhav summoned all his MPs to the city on Saturday, also Sena UBT MLA Aaditya Thackeray's birthday. Sena UBT MP from Nashik Rajabhau Waze said he was attending the Sunday meeting called by Uddhav.

Assam bans Aadhaar issue to adults in crackdown on illegal migrants

Guwahati: Fears that illegal immigrants may be slipping into Aadhaar rolls has pushed Assam govt to stop fresh Aadhaar enrolment for anyone above 18, after some districts reported enrolment levels of 114%-115%, far exceeding population estimates, reports **Prabin Kalita**.

"Assam has already reached saturation in Aadhaar enrolment. But in some districts, saturation has crossed 114% and 115%. This raises serious concern about who is obtaining these cards," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Ban takes immediate effect. Exceptions have been carved out for people with disabilities, SC, ST and tea garden communities till March 31, 2027. After that, fresh enrolment for those above 18 from these groups will also stop. In exceptional cases, DCs must seek govt approval before Aadhaar can be issued to an adult applicant.

TN man held for recording women's obscene videos, sexually abusing them

Salem: Police in TN's Salem have arrested a 40-year-old man on charges of filming obscene videos of women and using the clips to blackmail and sexually abuse them. Police confirmed that at least 3 women were subjected to blackmail and abuse, but a probe is on to find out if there were more victims. TNN

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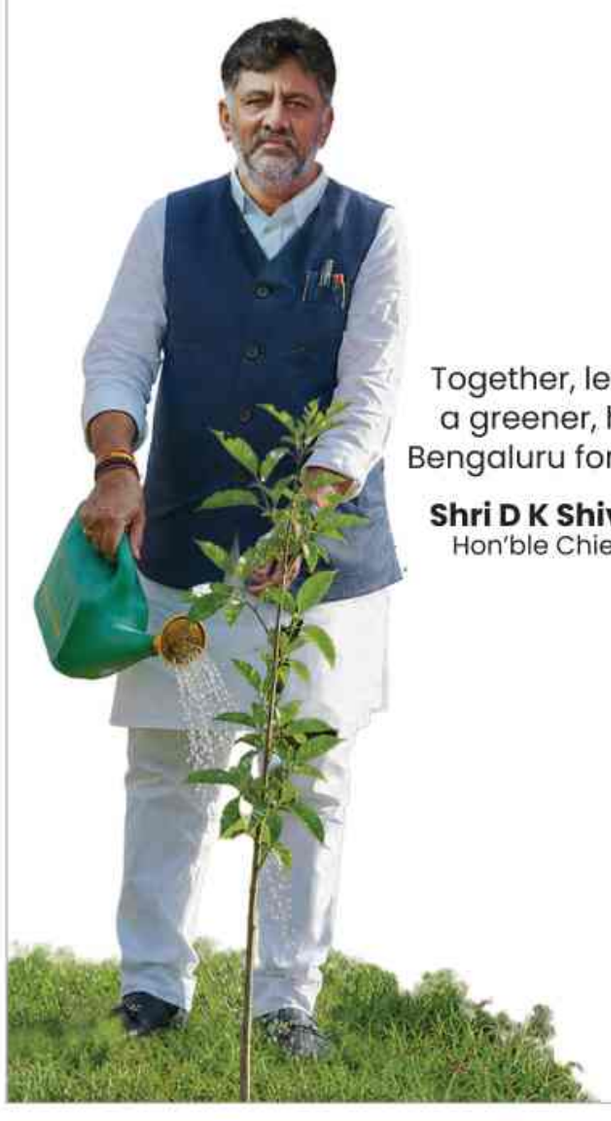

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Probe missing SCCL coal: Min to T'gana CM

New Delhi: Coal minister **G Kishan Reddy** has written to Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy, seeking an inquiry into reports of 40 lakh tonne of coal worth about Rs 1,600 crore missing from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

Reddy said the allegations could impact SSCL's financial stability, given its current financial position due to unpaid dues exceeding Rs 51,500 crore by Telangana govt. SCCL is owned by Telangana govt and Centre in a 51:49 equity ratio.

"Such allegations, if not examined with alacrity and addressed promptly, may undermine SCCL's financial position and impede its growth," Reddy said, adding that the adequacy of safeguards, mechanisms, and internal controls for effective functioning of SCCL should also be examined. TNN

Third major AN-32 tragedy in Northeast since 2009

HEROES LOST: L-R: Prashant Singh, Shubham Kumar, Jitendra Sharma, Danish Alam, and Khemaram Kumawat

▶Continued from P 1

Defence minister Rajnath Singh wrote on X, "Deeply anguished by the loss of five air warriors in the An-32 accident at Jorhat, Assam...made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Their courage and service to the nation will always be remembered with pride and gratitude. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. The nation stands firmly with them in this hour of grief." The crash at Jorhat is the third major AN-32 tragedy in the Northeast since 2009.

Antonov An-32 serves as the backbone of IAF's medium-lift fleet. The force currently operates a fleet of approximately 100 An-32 aircraft. Originally designed and built in erstwhile Soviet Union at the request of IAF, it is a highly capable aircraft for remote and high-altitude regions. It is used for tactical airlifting, troop transport and remote-area resupply. However, the fleet is aging. IAF is, therefore, planning to replace An-32 fleet with newer medium transport aircraft like Airbus C-295, with the first made-in-India aircraft recently completing its maiden test flight from the final assembly line in Vadodara, Gujarat.

Woh Con Tha: Army officials and veterans nab '21-yr-old Brigadier'

Impersonator Held After 2 Months Of Surveillance

Arvind.Chauhan@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: A man dressed as a Brigadier, travelling in an SUV adorned with military insignia and flanked by self-styled commandos, may have looked every bit the senior army officer he claimed to be. But a carefully laid trap by army authorities and veterans in Shahjahanpur brought the charade to an abrupt end Friday, exposing what investigators believe was an elaborate impersonation racket.

Officials noted the accused suffers from knock knees, a physical condition that would make him ineligible for military service, making his alleged attempt to pass himself off as a senior officer ironic. And to cap it all, he is just 21.

The operation was the culmination of nearly two months of surveillance and intelligence gathering after reports surfaced about a suspicious individual moving around Shahjahanpur and neighbouring areas while presenting himself as a high-ranking Army officer. Acting on the inputs, Station Headquarters Shahjahanpur, led by Administrative Commandant Col JS Jaglan, worked with local ex-servicemen to verify the suspect's identity and apprehend him.

Officials noted the accused suffers from knock knees, a condition that would make him ineligible for military service, making his alleged attempt to pass off as an officer ironic

To lure him out, organisers invited the suspect to a function at the Shaheed Museum on the pretext of felicitating local students. As soon as he arrived, the waiting team identified and detained him along with his associates.

The accused, Aryan Verma, was allegedly dressed in the uniform of a Brigadier and arrived in an SUV bearing a one-star plate and an army headquarters flag. During the operation, authorities recovered a fake Brigadier identity card, an air pistol, an AMC regimental cane and several other items resembling official military accoutrements.

Investigators also detained two men in black who were allegedly posing as NSG commandos, while the driver accompanying the group was found carrying a Govt of India identity card. All four individuals, along with the seized material, were handed over to Sadar police station in Shahjahanpur, for investigation and legal action.

Pet dog foils theft bid in MP, pays with life

Bhopal: Every morning, Sweetu would be waiting outside the gate, tail wagging, ready to greet her family. But she was not there Saturday morning, bludgeoned to death by thieves for thwarting theft in a Satna home.

The eight-year-old Pomeranian, a beloved member of the Yadav family, was found dead hours after she allegedly confronted the gang trying to break into the house. The intruders fled without stealing anything.

For her family, Sweetu did not die as a pet, but as a hero protecting the Yadavs' home.

"There were injuries on her leg, waist and neck. There were also strangulation marks. But the thieves could not succeed in executing the theft. Even after being such a small, homely breed, she laid down her life for us," said 46-year-old Nitin Yadav, struggling to hold back tears. TNN

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B.TECH IIT + ISB (MBA) '84|171 cm Tech Founder/CEO Dubai. Income 10 Crore. Elite Jaipur Jain Family 9829294900

SUITABLE match for 1993 handsome Jat Sikh boy 5-9" BBM brought up and working in Bangalore Caste no bar 9980556265

HINDU Man Aged 40 years, MBA-MNC, Separated Own House well settled in Bangalore seeks Suitable Bride Divorcee/ Widow No Bars.Call: 9686864650

COSMOPOLITAN

TAMIL Mudaliyar, Bangalore, M, 30 yrs, 5'6", Handsome Surgeon, fit, affluent. MS, MCh (GI), Dec '26. Seeks beautiful, doctor bride — MS / MCh OB-GYN / Surgical. BHP: 9945011811

37/ 5'10" Slim, Simple Boy, Inter, Hyderabad Established Marwari Family. Seeks Simple Hindu Family Oriented Girl (Divorcee / Minor Handicap OK) BHP Mob.: 9849015330

DM Dr(Dec-91, 6'1, Tamil) seeks a virtuous, tall, slim, v.fair, PG Dr/well edu bride (29-31 yrs) at Bangalore.Parents: 9342529547 / 9072118800

SEEK Alliance For UK based British Citizen Hindu 36 5'10 IT Architect 1.5CrPA seeks veg family +447882047224

MANGLIK

HANDSOME Khatri M IssLDv, 5'10" DOB 21.11.1984 8.25PM Delhi MBA (UK) Own business in Canada Seeks B'ful Edu girl 9971552253

SECOND MARRIAGE

SUCCESSFUL 43, humble, open-minded, intelligent (PhD), responsible AI scientist. Seeks progressive, compatible, well-read bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

RELIGION NO BAR

38/5'10" Unmarried Boy Cast No Bar Btech-MBA IIM, Working MNC 60 LPA Bn'ess Family Accpt Div & Widow Cont: 9009486689, 7587736854

BY LANGUAGE

GUJARATI

ALLIANCE invited for Delhi-based Sports & Gaming Lawyer, Gujarati Brahmin, 32 yrs, 6'0", GNLU alumnus (B.A.LL.B. Hons.), from Surat settled family. Seeking an educated, cultured & family-oriented bride. 9824751544

SURAT Gujarati Brahmin parents seek alliance for son, 30, 6'1", DNB (Orthopaedics), pursuing Trauma Fellowship at Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore. Seeking educated, cultured girl from a respectable family.98240-51532

JULY 1999 B.TECH IT 5'.8" Software Engineer MNC Bengaluru 65+LPA Mumbai family seeks working-Educated girl-9224449011.

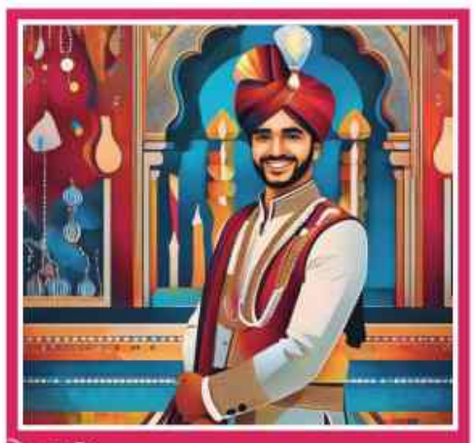
PUNJABI

DELHI Based H'some, Fair PB boy, 1985/5'10", MBA, divorced short 2 months marriage. Educationist running reptd Sr. Sec. Schools. Seeks B'ful, Edu. girl from resp. fmly. 9999185900

PUNJABI Khatri boy, 33 yrs Kolkata-based entrepreneur from affluent business family. Seeking educated, cultured bride with modern values & strong roots. Call : 84788 72995.

GURSIKH Arora h'some boy Feb '95/5'11" veg teeto,Advocate at Delhi.Comfortable life.Joint family concept.Befitting match may contact/whap : 9837200022

BRIDE WANTED
Alliance invited for a well-educated, handsome and professionally established Sikh boy, 29 years, 5'8", BBA, alumnus of Modern School, Barakhamba Road, successfully managing his own business. Belongs to a well-respected and affluent family based in South Delhi & Bareilly. Seeking a well-educated, beautiful, cultured and family-oriented girl from a respectable family.
Please Send Recent Photograph and Complete Biodata to:
asobti423@gmail.com
9359111889



WANTED GROOMS

WANTED GROOMS
BY CASTE
BRAHMIN

SM4 Gaur Brhmn girl, B.Des., 29Yr/5'5",Wrkg in BLR,earning H'some sal.pkg. Seeks PQ Veg North Indian Brhmn T'totaler Boy wrkg in Metro City (pref. BLR), Whtsp: 9 7 1 9 5 7 7 7 6 8 , 9703830947,9886607922 email: aksharmagzh2022@gmail.com

BRAHMIN Girl, Gautam Gotra, 25/5'4", Veg., B.Tech., MS, Big 4 Cyber Security Consultant in Bengaluru. Seeking B.Tech. /MBA /M.Tech., Veg., Non-Smoker/Non-Drinking Brahmin Groom. Contact +917337340000, 8103101802.

AFFLUENT Tyagi Brahmin industrialist family invites alliance for their accomplished & good-looking daughter, born in 1993, height 5'4",well-educated(MBA;CFA Level I cleared). Seeking suitable match from reputed industrialist family. director@nicholas.co.in | M 9795922999

BRAHMIN girl 27/5'5" MBA wkg in a MNC in Bangalore. Non-Manglik. Suitable groom sought. Kundli matching essential. Pref. MP, UP & NCR residents. Marriage bureaus please excuse. # 9826267138, 99262 47691

ONLY USA based Br boy for Br b'ful girl 1993/5'2",BTech,MS -N.Corolina,wkg S/W DevOps, Rhode Island.Fathr retd Depty Excise Comm'r. M : 9286759693

SM4 41/5'7" PQ Brahmin girl wkg in MNC in SG, I'less divorcee, veg, teetotaller, non-maglik, kkbvishakha@gmail.com

ALLIANCE for smart, fair Kanyakubj girl, 25/5'5", qlfd, reputed fmly.Seek h'sme, educated groom from an affluent bus'nss fmly. WAp: 9893344463

GREEN Card Holder Doctor girl fair beautiful 49/5'6" working in New York, issueless divorcee , cast no bar ; only US boy prefd. #7091920691

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

PUNJABI Hindu Arora boy, 27/6'1", MS Business Analytics Chicago, H1B, B.Tech CS, Cultured, family-oriented, Seeking professionally qualified Hindu girl, preferably USA settled. Mobile, Whats'up number +91 9419189485, sushilarora2003@gmail.com

CANADA based Arora boy, 38/5'6", Finance Manager, owns house, seeks beautiful educated bride in India or Canada. Whatsapp. +1-516-749-0164

HINDU, Handsome, 32 yrs, 6'0", MS, PhD (USA), seeks alliance from tall, fair, beautiful, well-educated girl from South Indian non-veg family, residing in USA/India. Caste no bar. (Call/WA): 9880088333 E: deeceecon06@gmail.com.

MAY'94/5'11" Saryuparin Brahmin , Non-vegetarian, H'some Boy ,B.Tech IIT KNP , MS NYU ,PHD AI (UCF) seeking U.S. based Slim ,B'ful Tall Girl. WhatsApp- 9415217547

PQM4 B'ful 5'3 37 SPB girl. BE. Wkng in S'pore. Lkng 4 all brahmin BE/MBA/MS wkg in India/abroad. 9724302920.8758304773

BANGLR bsd Vg 46+ TamBram Iyer Pretty USC Seeks an edud VegIndMan upto 52yrs Div2018 Nt wrkg usewlkr NoChld Get US pensn C:9945505879/7349264137

MATCH for Well Qlfd B'full Brahmin Girl 1996/5'-4" Company Secretary (CS) Wrkg. as Investment Banker & Corporate Lawyer in Mumbai Contact- 9137557872, 8980933233

SPB Bhrdj gtr 29/5'4" wheatish Hmly B'ful grl Mtech Wkg MNC 20 LPA Frm Lko prnts Govt Drs seek 5'8"+ PQM MNC/Govt Ofc. All Brh acptd BP: 9415250223

10.05.91 Kumaoni Brhmn 5'2" M.Tech BITS wkg B'lore girl seek MBA/BTec/MTec boy set ld B'lore, Mum, Hyd, Ahmeda bad, all brhmn wlcm 7355582946

SEEKING QUALIFIED HINDU GROOM
Affluent Brahmin family Aurangabad Maharashtra invites alliance for slim, fair, beautiful daughter, 30/5'3", MMktg (Deakin Australia), BBA (NMIMS Mumbai), MNC Profnl, Bangalore. Father business, mother professor.
Seeking qualified Hindu groom, service/business.
devenmishra66@gmail.com
Mob/WhApp: 9420263304

JAIN

MBA IIM & B.Tech B'ful Jain Non-Mnglk girl 32/5'6" / Mngr in BIG 4 / 39 LPA, Father Retd. PSU, Seeks Prof. Qlfd. well settled boy. # 98030 39803

KAYASTHA

ARCHITECT Mathur girl, Jan'95/5'6, wkg Gurgaon, Delhi family sttld GGN, seeks smart prof qlfd match preferably from GGN/ Delhi. Call 8178979923.

KHATRI

PROF Qulfd match for MBA finance girl, 1997/5'5"wrkng in MNC, father WRKG in Oil & gas sector MNC at NOIDA. 9988882108, 8054018639

YADAV

Wanted Groom
Alliance invited for beautiful Yadav girl, 38 yrs, 5'7", BHMS, Bhopal based. Father Ex-Defence Officer. Caste No Bar.
Contact : 8319447170, 9893106147

BY PROFESSION

BUSINESS

A prominent and respected Punjabi family of high repute into multifaceted business, seeking alliance for their very smart and beautiful Daughter, 28 year 5',5" height. She is educated in the US and runs her own successful venture . We are looking for an educated , intelligent boy with a pleasing personality from an industrial house or business. Family has to be cultured and affluent. Metro cities preferred.
8879773272
Or Mail Us At
inpurplebasket@gmail.com

DOCTORS

DOCTOR MS ObGynae beautiful DOB 96- 5/3 SR Hindu Rao Hospital Delhi educated cultured Hindu family kolkata seeks sweetable match preferably doctor Caste no Bar Ph. 9433477300/6291374006

SM4 b'ful, cultured Hindu Dentist girl, 33 / 5'2". Lkng for well-settled Hindu Doctor. Age: 34-36 never married. Non Smoker / Non Drinker. Mob: 9423630332 / 9822561465.

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

SYRO-MALABAR Bangalore brought-up girl, 25 yrs, 175 cm, slim, fair, MBA, working in a reputed company. Only daughter of upper-middle-class family. Alliance from professional, well-settled boy from a respectable family. WhatsApp 9880347967

HINDU

WELL settled groom from elite business/affluent family from Rajput/ upper-caste for 31/5'8", good looking, corporate professional belongs to reputed business family. Cont : 6268474143, 8770146091

PQM FOR MUMBAI WORKING IN MNC MP BASED GIRL 19 feb86/167cm BE, DIPLOMA 35LAKH FROM ANY METRO CITY EARLY MARRIAGE MOB 9479607960

DELHI -BASED BANIYA girl, 34, 5'7", Fair, USA/Harvard Masters, MNC employed. Seeks well educated Groom settled in India. Ph: 9811278555

BEAUTIFUL, 26 yrs, 5'8" Engg, MBA(IIM). Req Tall, Handsome, professional, Affluent fly, settled in Hyd / Blr. / Mumbai. Ph: 9880754481

Looking for GROOM
SM4 Tamil Brahmin - Iyer Girl, 37, 5'6", good looking, fair, smart, CA, MBA working in senior position, issueless divorcee, (very short marriage), hails from an affluent, educated and cultured family with progressive outlook, looking for a professionally qualified and well employed Boy, never married or divorced without issues, aged 38 to 42 years from affluent families with similar values and outlook. Please write to us with details
Phone: 9043949107 (WhatsApp)
Email: asalliancemail@gmail.com

MUSLIM

INVITING alliances from highly qualified, cultured Muslim professionals (MBA/MS/PhD preferred or pursuing) from top global institutions for our beautiful, talented daughter. Born 14-Feb-1997, 5'6", MS EE (Stanford). Father: 9974177856.

SUNNI v'fr. grl, 1985/5'2", Sr. SW Dev.(Lead)Cognizant,Hyd Fmly stld Del.. Mthr Sheikh Fthr Ansari. Seeks wel sttld boy fr edu fmly. Wt ap bio/ snap @9718731888, 8287791148

SIKH

South Delhi based reputed Gursikh business family seeks alliance for their daughter, 27/5'2", US Graduate and MBA from a premier Indian institute. Looking for a Gursikh (Non-Trimmer), well educated professional/ businessman from a cultured family in India
Contact
9953659473
Vakr3422@gmail.com

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GOOD looking, Slim, Sikh girl, 30/5'6", M.Tech, wkg prof. in Bangalore seeks Sikh / Punjabi Smart, Prof. qlfd match in Bangalore. 8421012469

BY COMMUNITY

ARORA

DIVORCED - Dental surgeon, Punjabi,MDS girl 39, height 5'2",fair. Job in Gurugram. (legal custody of child with father). Doctor family. Requires same status boy preferably in Gurugram. ph: 9896028334

BHUMIHAR

BHUMIHAR MBA (Wkg) 26/5'4" Delhi bsd family (BH roots) seek well settled boy pref. in Delhi # 8826888330/9625557974

RAJPUT

Affluent Rajput business family seeks medico Rajput boy only for their very pretty Daughter 31/ 5'02" done MS - Ophthalmology working in Delhi Government hospital. Respond with bio data and pictures at
7838387034

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

BENGALI b'ful girl 94 born/5'-4", Chandigarh based Pastry Chef Bengali/Non-Bengali upper caste families only. Contact : 8284854506.

BENGALI b'ful girl, 94 born/5'2", Advertising Professional, well-settled fmly from Chd. Bengali/Non-Bengali Upper- caste only. # 8968665723.

SEEK professional match for Bengali Rajbanshi girl 30, height 163 cm, MBBS, Pursuing MD (Anaes). 7003080000.

PUNJABI

PUNJABI Khatri girl 34/5'3" MBA fair, wrkg MNC Banglore seeks Veg teetotaler prefd B'glore setteled groom M: 9451948490, 8299195574

SM-4 Punjabi (Arora) girl Oct'96/ 5'6" BE (CS), Non-Mnglk wkg at Pune, 43 LPA seeks veg, teetotaller boy wkg at Mumbai/ Pune/B'lore/Hy'bad 9004410402

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

B.TECH Tamil Mudaliar Girl DOB Dec 94 NRI Wkg MNC UAE, 42LPA,Seeks boy Wkg Abroad, CasteNoBar CT9667248379.

BFUL MBA Uni. Prof. 5'6"/59 in Aust. Seeks unmarried wealthy, tall, H'some, Profnl, Medico. Gen. call 61435747736. lataprem900@yahoo.com

MENON Girl 40 issueless divorcee in London MNC. Professional Nair/Menon 40-45 in London only respond. Mobile: 7799492922.

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

AFFLUENT family looking for well settled, professionally qualified match for their 38 year 5 feet 3" pretty Punjabi Khatri daughter foreign educated and well employed with MNC in Delhi. Non manglik. Caste no bar. Wapp/Call 99990-10178, 2ajgrover@gmail.com

"DOCTOR MD, DM, Salary 3lakhs pm,1992/155cm Hindu (BC) girl, fair, slim, cultured family, well settle in Bangalore, upper middle class seeks bridegroom MD/MS/DM or Highly qualified engineer with good Salary, caste no bar". Contact 9845522122.

QUALIFIED abroad B'ful girl (Hindu), father cardiologist, 1990/5'5", seeks qualified groom, caste no bar, open to all regional backgrounds. Preferred NRIs: US/Can/Eur.Contact 9266863038

BENGALI Br.39/5'4" slim fair (mutual consent divorced) no children Sr. Mngr in nationalized bank, W'sttld, currently posted Mum.Fitness-conscious Seeks W'edu. understandng prof Qlfd & comptble life partner 9005912345/9967586661

ALLIANCE invited for US Green Card holder Mumbai CA Spinster 45/158/54 from educated well settled Groom in USA. Contact +91 9930715231 or ikp24957@gmail.com

SEEKING alliance from upper caste for Bangalore based beautiful 1995/5'6" daughter of Army officer.Mother sister doctors contact 9885186147

MS in Elec Engr from Houston Univ USA, Jatav B'ful 29/5' wkg girl in Pennsylvania USA. Seeks well sttld prof qlfd match. prfd from USA # 9958993849

WIDOW with one daughter13 year's, Age - 43, H-5.5, Education-MA,BEd working in MNC IT Company.9671668873, 8950602460 caste Mishra.

AUSTRALIAN Citizen, 50 years, Hindu Lady looking for Suitable match. May relocate to India. Whatsapp: +61 422794566 / +91 9963408731

KAYASTHA 39/5'4" SW engg. Pro Manager top MNC B'lore, mutual dvc no kids, seeks boy wkg in B'lore/Pune High caste no bar 9795320972

COSMOPOLITAN

LONDON based Fair Smart Conv Edu girl 39/5'3" BE,MBA. Sr.Consultant Top MNC. Highly edu fmly Bihar/UP. Email: spriyadarshee@gmail.com WApp/Call: +91 9445021180.

NIGAM Kayastha Girl May97 5'8" BTechCSE MNC BLR 65LPA. Parents Drs in Kanpur. Caste no bar. 9450340439 Seek prof. match

SMART & Slim Punjabi girl NZ Citizen, CA, 28/5'4" wkg in Australia seeks compatible alliance in India or Aus. WhatsApp only: 9848051952

LAWYER prtnr M'bai firm 84 born/165 cm seeks prof qlfd unmarried groom max 48 yrs M'bai/overseas skpmsgwhatsapp@gmail.com

Suitable match for 30 years, 5'.5", convent educated, alumnus of NIFT, Bangalore, working for 8 years. Looking for well qualified, settled boy from upper class family. Send your Biodata at vvikas1967@gmail.com

SC/ST

M.TECH-NIT Smart Girl (Chamar) 28/5'4", Wkg in MNC, Bangalore. Seeks Govt./Pvt. Emp.boy. Mob:9455225685 Email- somdutt.dm@gmail.com

SECOND MARRIAGE

RESPECTED Hindu family seeks suitable match for 1980, 5'-6", smart slim beautiful divorced daughter. BE Working MNC Banglore Contact/Whatsapp 9592003132

ATTRACTIVE architect 39, 164cm, loyal, well-spoken, open-minded. Cultured family. Seeks smart, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

SMART Elegant, aesthetic, Univ professor, rep bschool, Mar77/5'3, noida, bio wt photo 9717815743

Gadkari: Files signed for 100% ethanol vehicles

Shishir.Arya@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: Union minister for highways and road transport **Nitin Gadkari** said on Saturday he has signed a file approving rules for granting legal sanction to 100% ethanol-driven vehicles.

"Finally, my dream of ethanol replacing petrol is coming true. I was ridiculed and severely criticised when I talked about ethanol-driven vehicles. When I signed the file at 8pm on Friday, it was a big day for me," Gadkari told reporters here. The minister said he also launched a 100% ethanol version of a top automobile company, and other auto firms would follow suit.

"Multiple narratives were set against alternative fuel. Now, I hope aircraft will also run on sustainable aviation turbine fuel manufactured from biomass which can be easily procured from farmers. Govt has already declared a Rs 10,000 crore package for stabilising ATF prices at Rs 115 per litre. This will help freeze rates and shield airlines from further fuel hikes," he said.

> **Multiple narratives were set against alternative fuel. Now, I hope aircraft will also run on sustainable ATF made from biomass... Govt has already declared a Rs 10,000 cr package for stabilising ATF prices at Rs 115 per litre. This will help freeze rates and shield airlines from further fuel hikes**
>
> **NITIN GADKARI**
> Union minister for road transport

A champion of e-vehicles, Gadkari said one of his biggest achievements was to introduce mechanised e-rickshaws. "I remember the time when cycle-rickshaw pullers struggled to climb steep inclines with passengers," he said.

PM: Will give voice to Global South

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At the G7 summit next week, India will not only speak for itself, but it will also give voice to aspirations of the Global South, said PM Narendra Modi ahead of his departure to France where he will participate in the summit and also have bilateral engagements with French President Emmanual Macron. The PM will have bilateral meetings with US President Donald Trump and Canadian PM Mark Carney, along with other G7 leaders, on the margins.

After his meeting with Macron on Sunday in Nice, Modi will travel to Slovakia for the first ever visit by an Indian PM to the country since its independence in 1993 before returning to France for the Evian G7 summit on June 16-17.

"India's presence at the G7 reflects the trust our partners place in us and our growing global profile. This is the 8th consecutive G7 Summit to which India has been invited," said the PM, who will also participate in a special meeting on West Asia hosted by France on the sidelines of the summit. Leaders of Qatar, UAE and Egypt are also expected to attend the meeting.

PM Narendra Modi will participate in the G7 summit in France next week

Modi is expected to underscore India's concerns over the consequences of the West Asia conflict, including the energy crisis, for the Global South in his engagements while stressing the significance of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. In an interview to **TOI** ahead of G7, French ambassador Thierry Mathou had signalled France's intent to have India's participation in a "defensive" coalition that would work with Iran to secure the Strait after the end of the conflict. Mathou had said that India's presence would send a powerful signal.

Ahead of his bilateral meeting with Macron, Modi said, "Earlier this year, President Macron visited India and we elevated our relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership... We will review the progress made since Feb, and chart the next steps in our cooperation.

4001/150/2627

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/06/2026-27
TCN No. 15401 dt. 30/05/2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work** : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in maneswar Block under Sambalpur District.
2. **Value of the Work** : Rs. 1487.92 lakhs
3. **Period of completion** :12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding**:
   I. Start Date: 18:00 Hours of dt 19.06.2026.
   II. End date: 17:00 ,Hours of dt.05.07.2026.
   III. Opening date: 11.30 Hours of dt.06.07.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Civil)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0046

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertisement and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:

1. **PARKING**: 17-06-2026, 22-06-2026, 30-06-2026.
2. **ADVERTISING**: 22-06-2026, 23-06-2026, 24-06-2026, 29-06-2026.
3. **PARCELS:** 15-06-2026, 16-06-2026, 25-06-2026, 29-06-2026
4. **PAY & USE :** 17-06-2026, 22-06-2026, 23-06-2026
5. **ATM & MISCELLANEOUS:** 19-06-2026, 17-06-2026, 19-06-2026, 26-06-2026
6. **CATERING :** 12-06-2026, 30-06-2026

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
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JOINT ADMISSION COMMITTEE CHANDIGARH (JAC) - 2026
CHANDIGARH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, SECTOR-26, CHANDIGARH-160019
Admission Website: https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/

ADMISSION NOTICE 2026

JOINT ADMISSION COMMITTEE (JAC)-2026 a body constituted by the Chandigarh Administration invites applications through JAC portal for admissions to various B.E./ B. Arch./ Integrated B.E.(Chemical)-MBA courses in the following institutions for the session 2026-27.

INSTITUTES UNDER JAC

1. **Chandigarh College of Engineering & Technology,** Sector-26, Chandigarh.
2. **Chandigarh College of Architecture,** Sector 12, Chandigarh.
3. **Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar University Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Panjab University,** Chandigarh (formerly Department of Chemical Engineering & Technology).
4. **University Institute of Engineering & Technology,** Panjab University, Chandigarh.
5. **University Institute of Engineering & Technology,** Panjab University S.S Giri Regional Centre (PUSSGRC), Hoshiarpur.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications are to be submitted online only at: https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/
- Applicants must carefully go through the instructions and FAQ section on the JAC website before filling up the form.

ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates who have passed their Class 12th/ equivalent examination in 2024, 2025, or those who are appearing in Class 12th/ equivalent examination in 2026, are eligible to appear in JEE (Main) - 2026 Examination.
- For more details visit: https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/eligibility-status/

HELPLINE

- Helpline No: 9872823250,9463739413, 8725014479, 9816290720.
- Helpline Email: helpdesk@ccet.ac.in

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date of registration	21st June, 2026 (Sunday).

For detailed schedule visit: https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/schedule/

- The Terms and Conditions and dates may be changed as per the decision of competent authority. Candidates are advised to visit the website (https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/) regularly.

Chairman, JAC-2026

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No.: IIIT-Bh/PDF/38/Dir Date : 12.06.2026

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AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2026-27/ DATED: 12.06.2026.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 15/2026-27, Dated:12.06.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD. Tender (Call-2) invited through E-Procurement for 01 Work in Hassan division. The amount put to tender is Rs.199.20 lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender is 24.06.2026 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Hassan Division, Hassan.

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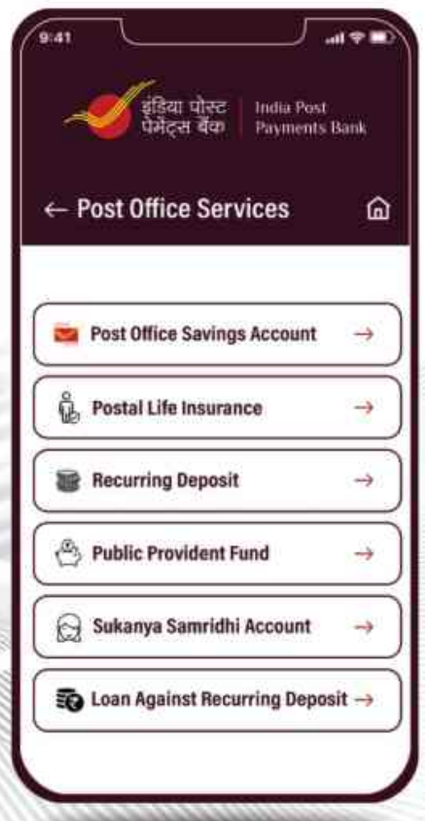
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'From loving nature to evoking the climate crisis, David Hockney made us look directly at modernity'

David Hockney, the great British painter, redefined how many draw, see and feel the contemporary world. Marking his life in ***Times Evoke****,* ***Srijana Mitra Das*** *frames some of the questions the painter raised, exploring Hockney's art — and heart:*

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BECAUSE WE'RE ALWAYS SMALLER THAN MOTHER NATURE: David Hockney stands by his immense 2007 painting 'Bigger Trees Near Warter', depicting the arrival of spring in East Yorkshire, which the artist emphasises via new leaves on taller trees and emerging daffodils

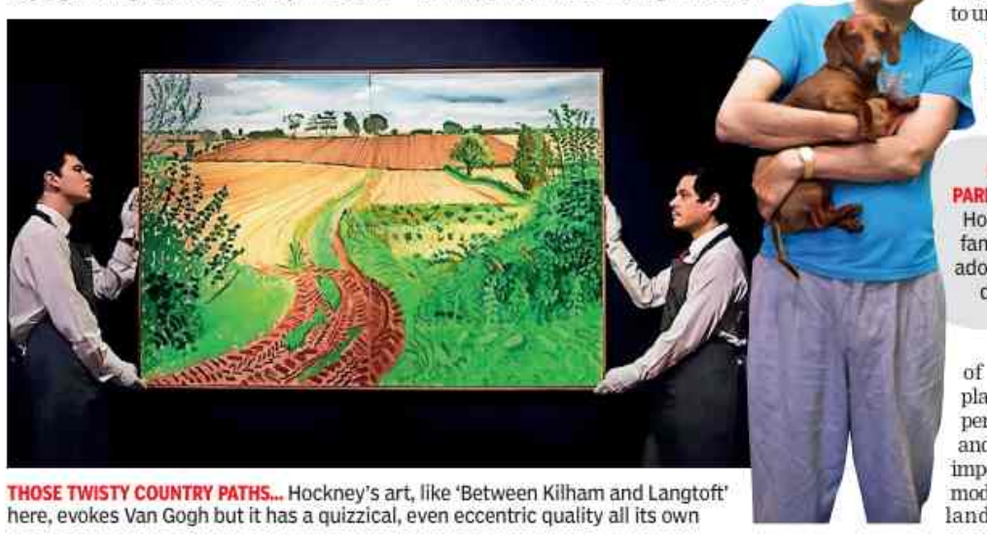
The first time I saw a David Hockney painting, I thought I was looking at a joke. Seriously. I spent every weekend of my years studying at Cambridge, going up to London, hopping from gallery to gallery, losing myself in a pleasurable fog of art. Over the years, I had come to know them all — Constable, Turner, Manet, Monet, Cezanne, Picasso, Modigliani, Matisse — and loved the long hours spent in solitude, walking across floors of marble and oak, traversing halls of green-gold gilded light, where paintings glittered quietly in throne-like frames. I learnt to note the elegant, controlled landscapes of Gainsborough, spot a ship in a stormy sea drawn by Turner a mile away. I learnt much by just looking at the control over colours and shades, the subtleties of the masters, the drama locked into the unmoving faces painted by Sargent and Hogarth, the soft transitions of light, the tasteful depictions of the grand. It all corresponded with my experiences of England, its soft greens drenched in gentle rain falling rhythmically on paisley-printed umbrellas, bright red buses and grey cobbled streets, a silvery Thames flowing around the master-tailors meticulously cutting every conceivable edge of an angle to a trouser ankle on Savile Row.

And then came David Hockney. It was a dimly-lit day when I entered a gallery showcasing the artist who has recently passed away. I thought this was a charade — here, after all, were paintings that blasted every convention of classical taste I had grown to recognise. At first glance, Hockney's paintings looked like they had been drawn by a child — eye-poppingly bright colours, bold scrawl-like lines that showed loudly instead of subtly amalgamating themselves, insouciant people diving into luminous, shimmering swimming pools, hills that rolled in peculiar ways, canyons that screamed orange and red, tree branches and roads twisting in loops and swirls.

And his colours! Gone were the subtle, refined shades of the masters. Here, instead, there were shouty, pouty, comic book-style vibrant hues that refused to sit down daintily and unfurl their napkins. Hockney's trees were orange, his skies were purple, his grass was blue and if anything was a bit dull, it was the inside of homes. After the traditional masters, Hockney seemed like landing at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, rather than taking a classical walk through a garden of erudite elegance.

LIFE IN TECHNICOLOUR

And yet, Hockney's paintings refused to leave my mind. All the way back to university, I kept puzzling at his dazzling canvases — it's like a child drawing a house with its own winding path, I thought, and then popped up the question — why is that so bad? I returned again to discover his mastery of shadow and light, his captures of diverse angles and planes, his tilts and use of perspective akin to Picasso and Dali and, perhaps most important, his determinedly modern paintings of nature, landscapes, fields, great parks and twisting country paths, forests standing ominously still, timid flowers captured in a vase, a brimming meadow holding its breath, a garden where you can control how the trees are planted — but you can't predict the shadows they will produce.



PET PARENTING: Hockney famously adored his dogs

THOSE TWISTY COUNTRY PATHS... Hockney's art, like 'Between Kilham and Langtoft' here, evokes Van Gogh but it has a quizzical, even eccentric quality all its own

Hockney's renditions of nature reminded me of Vincent Van Gogh but they were also different. There is somewhere, a melancholia in Van Gogh, a foretelling of sadness even in the most beautiful landscapes — there is only a cheekiness in Hockney which made a home in my heart. His paintings tickled my mind — why so serious, he seemed to muse? Life is glorious fun, my dear, don't be afraid of it.

That's the thing about art. Somewhere, it touches you so deeply within, it changes the way you look outward at the world. Hockney made me aware of how intensely beautiful Earth is. How every leaf is a marvel of geometry and each shadow, like an ancestor looming over you, so enigmatic, it's almost funny. He made me realise some of the most profound truths of our marvellous existence on Earth — and made me laugh. When you see great art like his — capturing the beauty and dazzle of our lovely, lively planet's luscious life — you realise the totally trivial mess we humans are making of this. Hockney's message — everything exists to see and savour, enjoy and adore — is extraordinarily relevant in the Anthropocene, the age of environmental crisis when we are wrecking Earth and refuse to look at our landscapes, both precious and imperilled, in the eye.

Here, importantly, Hockney captures a great contradiction of our times. Nature, of which we are an integral part, primates with bubbly brains, curious needs and searching minds, is gorgeous. It is also under existential threat from forces Hockney captured with the deftness of an economic historian. Hockney's life mirrored some of the greatest shaping drives of the times he inhabited, from the end of colonialism and the massive destruction of war to the decline of Britain and the rise of America. In his books, he described the limitations he felt in post-war Britain — his fellow art students, usually elite, mocked his middle-class Northern accent, to which he thought, 'If I drew like them, I'd keep my mouth shut' — where rationing still echoed, class boundaries held strong and the weather was gloomy grey. He thus left in 1961 for sunlit America, which dazzled him with its great gliding cars and suburban mansions, its swimming pools and grand hotels, its huge highways (he painted the mountains along these bright purple) and electricity pylons, its gadgets and gizmos, some adopted in his art.

DIVING IN: Hockney loved swimming pools

But who was paying for this lifestyle of opulence where even a middle-class home had its own swimming pool and remote controlled barbeque pits? Where were the emissions going from this hedonistic world? How much water would every swimming pool in America need — and where on Earth, with its finite fluids, would be deprived to quench this plutocratic West? Hockney didn't deliberately raise these questions — but his art did. His paintings certainly made me think about the way the West lives — and how justified this is, after centuries of looting others' liberties and lands.

Along with hard questions, Hockney had the ability to evoke the softest part of your heart. Perhaps some of my favourites — see: thedavidhockneyfoundation.org — are the paintings of his beloved dachshunds. The term 'pet parent' is recent but decades ago, Hockney was painting his Stanley and Boodgie — and trying to see the world through their eyes. He noted they always looked out at the ocean, observing the shape of the water, sculpted by wind, tugged by cloud and tide. Somewhere, the tenderness a pet arouses in you showed in his paintings — you and your pet turn, after all, into sun and sunflower to each other, following the other through life. Perhaps this is what David Hockney was about then — an ode to beauty in an often astonishingly unpleasant world. And a song about love where we talk about everything but that. Thank heavens for his art.

Views expressed are personal

HEARTWARE: Works composing 'A Year in Normandie', a 90.75-metre-long continuous frieze, were drawn during the pandemic when Hockney used tablets to capture scenes

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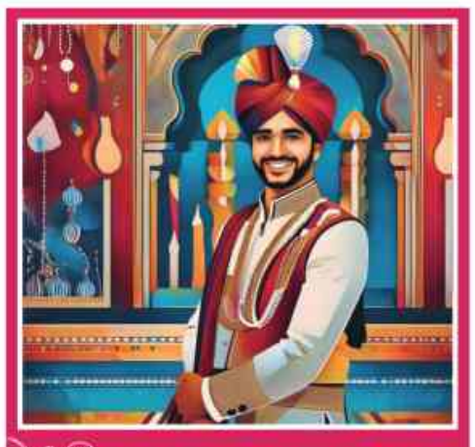

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PILLAI, 28, 158 cms, MD, Doctor, lives in UK. Looking for the suitable groom from any community. Call: 6366530311

REDDY, 29, 168 cms, MBA , Lives in USA, Father into Business. Seeking alliance from any community within the USA. Call: 6366530307

REDDY, 30, 165 cms, MS, Business, Lives in Chennai. Looking for a suitable groom from the same community. Call: 6366530308

REDDY, 31, 170 cms, Entrepreneur, Bangalore. Father Businessman. Seeking the well-settled match. Call: 6366530296

REDDY, Divorced, 29, 160 cms, Completed MD in UK. Father is Doctor. Looking for the well-qualified professionals. Call: 6366448338

ROMAN Catholic, 25, 165 cms, MBA Manager, lives in Australia. Seeking a suitable groom from any community. Call: 6366530311

SMARTHA, 32, 168 cms, MD, Doctor, Bangalore. Father, Auditor. Seeking the match from same community. Call: 6366530296

VELAMA, 30, 178 cms, Architect, Hyderabad. Father is a businessman. Seeking educated caste no bar groom. Call: 6366448338

VOKKALIGA, 29, 169 cms, Advisor, Bangalore. Father Executive Director in MNC. Seeking the suitable Match. Call: 6366530296

VOKKALIGA, 35, 160 cms, MBA, Researcher, Lives in Chennai. Seeking the alliance from any community, any location. Call: 6366530307

"THESE PROFILES ARE FROM ELITE MATRIMONY"

Union min hails startups in nuclear, space sectors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: India is witnessing a major shift in its innovation landscape, with the government opening up sectors such as nuclear energy and space to private participation while strengthening support for startups, Union minister of state (independent charge) for science and technology **Jitendra Singh** said Saturday.

Speaking after inaugurating the Research, Industry, Start-up, Entrepreneurship (RISE) conclave here, Singh said India had moved from having around 350-400 startups in 2014 to nearly 2.3 lakh startups today, making it the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. These ventures have generated nearly 25 lakh jobs over the past decade, he said.

Stressing on the need for sustained support, Singh said startups require a combination of research, innovation and strong industry partnerships to scale up successfully.

Highlighting the govt's push towards private sector participation in strategic sectors, Singh said India had opened its nuclear sector to private players, a move undertaken by only a handful of countries globally.

"Only last week, a group of industry leaders from the US visited New Delhi and Mumbai to explore investment opportunities in India's nuclear sector," he said, adding that the regulatory framework for such participation was being finalised.

The minister said India's space economy, currently valued at nearly $9 billion, is projected to grow to $40-45 billion over the next eight to ten years. He attributed the anticipated growth to reforms introduced over the past five years that enabled greater private sector involvement.

Singh also highlighted progress under National Quantum Mission, launched in 2023. He said the mission had already achieved nearly half its targets within three years.

—Prapti Idnani

Need for 'antifragile system': PM's secy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India must increasingly build an "antifragile system" that emerges stronger through uncertainties and disruptions, principal secretary to PM, **P K Mishra** said Saturday while highlighting that the nature of risks and vulnerability is changing. He also stressed on the need to "introspect and analyse" why all ideas and insights known and often talked about are not implemented and delivered on ground.

Mishra's observations at the golden jubilee celebrations of National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) are significant in the light of multiple global disruptions since the Covid-19 pandemic, including the current West Asia conflict, that have impacted contries and the chronic governance issue of gap between ideas and implementation on ground.

Mishra said disruptions are no longer isolated and can cascade rapidly across sectors and economies. "... Resilience must be understood as the capacity to... increasingly build antifragile systems that emerge stronger through uncertainty and change," the top bureaucrat added.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CHANGES IN TRAIN SERVICES

Due to line block in connection with yard remodeling and major safety upgrade works at KSR Bengaluru Station, changes will be made to the following train services, as detailed below:

I. Cancellation of trains:

Sl. No.	Train Nos.	Journey Commencing On	Remarks
1.	06269 Mysuru-SMVT Bengaluru Pass	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	Will be Cancelled
2.	06270 SMVT Bengaluru-Mysuru Pass	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	
3.	56265 Arsikere-Mysuru Pass	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	
4.	56266 Mysuru-Arsikere Pass	17.06.2026 to 04.08.2026	
5.	66535 KSR Bengaluru-Channapatna MEMU	17.06.2026 to 04.08.2026	
6.	66536 Channapatna-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	17.07.2026 to 20.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
7.	66580 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	16.07.2026 to 19.07.2026	
8.	66553 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram MEMU	16.07.2026 to 19.07.2026	
9.	20623 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
10.	20624 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
11.	17289 Kakinada Town-Mysuru Exp.	31.07.2026	
12.	17290 Mysuru- Kakinada Town Exp.	01.08.2026	
13.	12291 Yesvantpur-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	31.07.2026	
14.	12292 Dr. MGR Chennai Central-Yesvantpur Exp.	01.08.2026	
15.	16577 Yesvantpur-Bidar Exp.	01.08.2026	
16.	16578 Bidar-Yesvantpur Exp.	02.08.2026	
17.	16547 Yesvantpur-Vijayapura Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
18.	16548 Vijayapura-Yesvantpur Exp.	02.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	
19.	56531 Yesvantpur-Hindupur Spl	03.08.2026 to 05.08.2026	
20.	56532 Hindupur-Yesvantpur Spl	03.08.2026 to 05.08.2026	
21.	16545 Yesvantpur-Sindhanur Exp.	03.08.2026 to 05.08.2026	
22.	16546 Sindhanur-Yesvantpur Exp.	04.08.2026 to 06.08.2026	
23.	22679 Yesvantpur-Hassan Exp.	03.08.2026 & 04.08.2026	
24.	22680 Hassan-Yesvantpur Exp.	04.08.2026 & 05.08.2026	
25.	16565 Yesvantpur-Mangaluru Central Exp.	02.08.2026	
26.	16566 Mangaluru Central-Yesvantpur Exp.	03.08.2026	
27.	16581 Yesvantpur-Shivamogga Town Exp	04.08.2026	
28.	16582 Shivamogga Town-Yesvantpur Exp.	04.08.2026	
29.	66572 Tumakuru-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
30.	66571 KSR Bengaluru-Tumakuru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
31.	66541 Whitefield-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
32.	66582 Bangarapet-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
33.	16522 KSR Bengaluru-Bangarapet MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
34.	12614 KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	
35.	66569 Yesvantpur-Tumakuru MEMU	02.08.2026	
36.	66570 Tumakuru-Yesvantpur MEMU	02.08.2026	
37.	66566 Tumakuru-Banaswadi MEMU	01.08.2026	
38.	66565 Banaswadi-Tumakuru MEMU	03.08.2026	
39.	22135 Mysuru-Renigunta Exp.	31.07.2026	
40.	22136 Renigunta-Mysuru Exp.	01.08.2026	
41.	17392 Sindhanur-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	
42.	56519 KSR Bengaluru-Hosapete Pass.	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	
43.	56520 Hosapete-KSR Bengaluru Pass.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	
44.	17391 KSR Bengaluru-Sindhanur Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	
45.	12658 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp	01.08.2026	
46.	12657 Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Exp	02.08.2026	
47.	05074 Lalkuan-KSR Bengaluru Spl.	01.08.2026	
48.	05073 KSR Bengaluru-Lalkuan Spl.	04.08.2026	
49.	16021 Dr MGR Chennai Central-Ashokapuram Exp.	02.08.2026	
50.	16022 Ashokapuram-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	03.08.2026	
51.	20687 SSS Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	02.08.2026	
52.	20688 KSR Bengaluru-SSS Hubballi Exp.	03.08.2026	
53.	06509 KSR Bengaluru-Danapur Exp Spl.	03.08.2026	
54.	06510 Danapur-KSR Bengaluru Exp Spl.	05.08.2026	
55.	66539 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram Tri-weekly	31.07.2026, 01.08.2026, 02.08.2026	
56.	66540 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru Tri-weekly	31.07.2026, 01.08.2026, 02.08.2026	
57.	16563 Bengaluru Cant.-Kalaburagi Exp	01.08.2026	
58.	16564 Kalaburagi- Bengaluru Cant. Exp	02.08.2026	

II. Partial Cancellation of trains:

Sl. No.	Train Nos.	JCO	Partially cancelled between
1.	66580 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	16.06.2026 to 15.07.2026, 20.07.2026 to 30.07.2026 & 03.08.2026	Channapatna-KSR Bengaluru
2.	66598 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru
3.	66579 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram MEMU	17.06.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Kengeri
4.	16521 Bangarapet- KSR Bengaluru MEMU	05.07.2026, 08.07.2026 to 30.07.2026	Krishnarajapuram-KSR Bengaluru
5.	16594 Nanded- KSR Bengaluru Exp.	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yelahanka-KSR Bengaluru
6.	16593 KSR Bengaluru-Nanded Exp.	17.06.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Yelahanka
7.	66591 KSR Bengaluru-Kolar MEMU	17.06.2026 to 01.08.2026, 03.08.2026 & 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
8.	17392 Sindhanur-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	19.06.2026, 27.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 03.07.2026, 13.07.2026, 16.07.2026 & 17.07.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
9.	56519 KSR Bengaluru-Hosapete Pass.	20.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 29.06.2026, 04.07.2026, 14.07.2026, 17.07.2026 & 18.07.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Yesvantpur
10.	56520 Hosapete-KSR Bengaluru Pass.	19.06.2026, 27.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 03.07.2026, 13.07.2026, 15.07.2026, 16.07.2026 & 17.07.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
11.	17391 KSR Bengaluru- Sindhanur Exp.	19.06.2026, 27.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 03.07.2026, 13.07.2026, 15.07.2026, 16.07.2026 & 17.07.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Yesvantpur
12.	16215 Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	17.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru
13.	20660 KSR Bengaluru- Mysuru Exp.	17.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Kengeri
14.	66552 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	17.07.2026 to 19.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru
15.	66597 KSR Bengaluru- Ashokapuram MEMU	17.07.2026 to 19.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Kengeri
16.	20659 Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	17.07.2026 to 31.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru
17.	16216 KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Exp.	17.07.2026 to 31.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Kengeri
18.	66549 Jolarpettai-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	16.07.2026 to 19.07.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
19.	66559 KSR Bengaluru-Anantapur MEMU	17.07.2026 to 20.07.2026 & 01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
20.	16378 Ernakulam- KSR Bengaluru Exp.	16.06.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
21.	16377 KSR Bengaluru-Ernakulam Exp.	17.06.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
22.	11301 CSTM Mumbai- KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yelahanka-KSR Bengaluru
23.	11302 KSR Bengaluru-CSTM Mumbai Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Yelahanka
24.	66554 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Kengeri-KSR Bengaluru
25.	66551 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Kengeri
26.	66524 Hindupur-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
27.	66567 KSR Bengaluru-Tumakuru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Yesvantpur
28.	66545 Marikuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
29.	16520 KSR Bengaluru-Jolarpettai MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
30.	26651 KSR Bengaluru- Ernakulam Vande Bharat Exp.	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
31.	12657 Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 & 01.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli-KSR Bengaluru
32.	12658 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	31.07.2026, 02.08.2026 & 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Baiyyappanahalli
33.	12027 Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli-KSR Bengaluru
34.	12028 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
35.	12027 Dr MGR Chennai Central - KSR Bengaluru Exp.	03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
36.	12607 Dr MG150R Chennai Central - KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli-KSR Bengaluru

Dr. Manjunath Kanamadi
Chief Public Relations Officer
South Western Railway, Hubballi

PUB/207/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CHANGES IN TRAIN SERVICES

Due to line block in connection with yard remodeling and major safety upgrade works at KSR Bengaluru Station, changes will be made to the following train services, as detailed below:

I. Partial Cancellation of trains:

Sl. No.	Train Nos.	JCO	Partially cancelled between
1.	12608 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Baiyyappanahalli
2.	16525 Kanniyakumari-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli-KSR Bengaluru
3.	16526 KSR Bengaluru-Kanniyakumari Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Baiyyappanahalli
4.	12628 New Delhi-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	29.07.2026 to 01.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli-KSR Bengaluru
5.	12627 KSR Bengaluru-New Delhi Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Baiyyappanahalli
6.	12080 SSS Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru Janshatabdi Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
7.	12079 KSR Bengaluru- SSS Hubballi Janshatabdi Exp.	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Yesvantpur
8.	16550 Kolar-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
9.	66525 KSR Bengaluru-Hassan MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
10.	20652 Talguppa-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Arsikere-KSR Bengaluru
11.	12725 KSR Bengaluru-Dharwad Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Arsikere
12.	12726 Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Arsikere-KSR Bengaluru
13.	66568 Tumakuru-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur- KSR Bengaluru
14.	66523 KSR Bengaluru-Hindupur MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
15.	66526 Hassan- KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur - KSR Bengaluru
16.	16549 KSR Bengaluru-Kolar MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
17.	12090 Shivamogga Town-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Arsikere-KSR Bengaluru
18.	12089 KSR Bengaluru- Shivamogga Town Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Arsikere
19.	16534 KSR Bengaluru- Jodhpur Exp.	02.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
20.	16596 Karwar-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Yesvantpur- KSR Bengaluru
21.	16595 KSR Bengaluru-Karwar Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur
22.	22692 Hazrat Nizamuddin-KSR Bengaluru Rajdhani Exp.	30.07.2026 to 01.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
23.	22691 KSR Bengaluru-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Yesvantpur
24.	20654 Belagavi-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
25.	16589 KSR Bengaluru-Sangli Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
26.	20662 Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
27.	20661 KSR Bengaluru-Dharwad Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur
28.	66519 Marikuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
29.	66546 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
30.	16519 Jolarpettai-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
31.	66583 KSR Bengaluru-Dharmapuri MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
32.	66555 Marikuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
33.	66542 KSR Bengaluru-Whitefield MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
34.	66529 Kuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
35.	66530 KSR Bengaluru- Bangarapet MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
36.	66512 Marikuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
37.	66511 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
38.	66581 KSR Bengaluru- Bangarapet MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Whitefield
39.	18463 Bhubaneswar - KSR Bengaluru Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam-KSR Bengaluru
40.	18464 KSR Bengaluru- Bhubaneswar Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam
41.	66584 Dharmapuri - KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
42.	66550 KSR Bengaluru-Jolarpettai MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
43.	22666 Coimbatore-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.26 to 03.08.26	Krishnarajapuram-KSR Bengaluru
44.	22626 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Krishnarajapuram
45.	22625 Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Krishnarajapuram-KSR Bengaluru
46.	22665 KSR Bengaluru-Coimbatore Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Krishnarajapuram
47.	12639 Dr MGR Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Krishnarajapuram - KSR Bengaluru
48.	12640 KSR Bengaluru-Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Krishnarajapuram
49.	66543 Kuppam-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
50.	66556 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam MEMU	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru-Bengaluru Cant.
51.	16521 Bangarapet-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Baiyyappanahalli - KSR Bengaluru
52.	66560 Anantapur-KSR Bengaluru MEMU	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Bengaluru Cant.-KSR Bengaluru
53.	66520 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam MEMU	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru Bengaluru Cant.
54.	26652 Ernakulam-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Exp.	31.07.2026 & 03.08.2026	Krishnarajapuram-KSR Bengaluru
55.	66570 Tumakuru-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.26,03.08.26 &04.08.26	Chikbanavar-Yesvantpur
56.	66595 Yesvantpur- Hosur MEMU	01.08.26, 03.08.26 & 04.08.26	Yesvantpur-Hebbal
57.	66596 Hosur-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Hebbal-Yesvantpur
58.	06593 Yesvantpur-Chikballapur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur - Yelahanka
59.	06594 Chikballapur-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yelahanka -Yesvantpur
60.	66585 Yesvantpur-Hosur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-Hebbal
61.	66586 Hosur-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Hebbal-Yesvantpur
62.	66569 Yesvantpur-Tumakuru MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur- Chikbanavar
63.	66561 Tumakuru-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Chikbanavar -Yesvantpur
64.	66564 Hosuru-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 and 03.08.2026	Hebbal-Yesvantpur
65.	16208 Mysuru-Yesvantpur Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Chikbanavar -Yesvantpur
66.	16211 Yesvantpur- Salem Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur- Banaswadi
67.	16212 Salem - Yesvantpur Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Banaswadi -Yesvantpur
68.	16207 Yesvantpur- Mysuru Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur- Chikbanavar
69.	66574 Tumakuru-Yesvantpur MEMU	01.08.2026 to 04.08.2026	Chikbanavar -Yesvantpur
70.	16512 Kozhikkode-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	30.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
71.	16511 KSR Bengaluru-Kozhikkode Exp.	31.07.2026 to 04.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
72.	20686 KSR Bengaluru-Gandhidham Exp.	01.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
73.	20693 Jodhpur-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	30.07.2026 & 01.08.2026	Yesvantpur - KSR Bengaluru
74.	20694 KSR Bengaluru-Jodhpur Exp.	03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur
75.	26751 Belagavi-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-KSR Bengaluru
76.	26752 KSR Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru - Yesvantpur
77.	22232 Kalaburagi-SMVT Bengaluru Vande Bharat Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	SMVT Bengaluru-Yelahanka
78.	22231 SMVT Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Vande Bharat Exp.	01.08.2026 to 03.08.2026	Yelahanka-SMVT Bengaluru
79.	66563 Yesvantpur-Hosur MEMU	01.08.2026, 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-Hebbal
80.	66562 Yesvantpur-Tumakuru MEMU	01.08.2026, 03.08.2026	Yesvantpur-Chikbanavar

II. Partial Extension of Trains:

Sl.No.	Train No.	JCO	Remarks	Additional Stoppages (Arr/Dep)
1.	20687 SSS Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	30.07.2026 to 01.08.2026	Temporarily extended to Mysuru from KSR Bengaluru	Kengeri (07:22/07:23) Ramanagaram (07:50/07:52) Mandya (08:33/08:34)
2.	20688 KSR Bengaluru-SSS Hubballi Exp.	31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Will temporarily originate from Mysuru at 19:15 hrs	Mandya (20:00/20:01) Ramanagaram (20:36/20:37) Kengeri (21:03/21:04)
3.	16590 Sangli-KSR Bengaluru Exp.	30.07.26 to 02.08.26	Temporarily extended to Ramanagaram.	-
4.	20653 KSR Bengaluru-Belagavi Exp.	31.07.26 to 03.08.26	Will temporarily originate from Ramanagaram at 19.20 hrs	-

Dr. Manjunath Kanamadi
Chief Public Relations Officer
South Western Railway, Hubballi

PUB/208/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

CHANGES IN TRAIN SERVICES

Due to line block in connection with yard remodeling and major safety upgrade works at KSR Bengaluru Station, changes will be made to the following train services, as detailed below:

I. Diversion of trains:

Sl.No.	Train No.	JCO	Diverted to run via	Skipping stoppages at
1	16022 Ashokapuram- Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	16.06.2026 to 21.06.2026, 23.06.2026 to 26.06.2026, 28.06.2026 to 02.07.2026, 04.07.2026, 05.07.2026, 08.07.2026 to 02.08.2026.	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur-Hebbal - Banaswadi – SMVT Bengaluru- Baiyyappanahalli	Bengaluru Cant.
2	16021 Dr MGR Chennai Central - Ashokapuram Exp.	19.06.2026, 27.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 03.07.2026, 13.07.2026. and 31.07.26	Krishnarajapuram - Baiyyappanahalli – SMVT Bengaluru- Banaswadi - Hebbal - Yesvantpur - KSR Bengaluru	Bengaluru East & Bengaluru Cant.
3	22135 Mysuru - Renigunta Exp.	19.06.2026, 03.07.2026, 10.07.2026, 17.07.2026 & 24.07.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur-Hebbal - Banaswadi – SMVT Bengaluru- Baiyyappanahalli	Bengaluru Cant.
4	22817 Howrah – Mysuru Exp.	03.07.2026, 10.07.2026, 17.07.2026, 24.07.2026 & 31.07.2026	SMVT Bengaluru- Banaswadi - Hebbal - Yesvantpur- KSR Bengaluru	-
5	22818 Mysuru- Howrah Exp.	21.06.2026, 28.06.2026, 05.07.2026, 12.07.2026, 19.07.2026, 26.07.2026 & 02.08.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur-Hebbal - Banaswadi	-
6	22136 Renigunta - Mysuru Exp.	27.06.2026	SMVT Bengaluru- Banaswadi - Hebbal- Yesvantpur- KSR Bengaluru	Bengaluru Cant.
7	22681 Mysuru- Dr MGR Chennai Central Exp.	15.07.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur-Hebbal- Banaswadi	Bengaluru Cant.
8	16586 Murdeshwar – SMVT Bengaluru Exp.	16.07.2026 & 17.07.2026	KSR Bengaluru- Yesvantpur-Hebbal- Banaswadi	Bengaluru Cant.
		31.07.2026 to 02.08.2026	Hassan-Nelamangala-Chikbanavar- Yesvantpur 'A' Cabin - Lottegollahalli-Banaswadi – SMVT Bengaluru	Hole Narsipur, Krishnarajanagar, Mysuru, Mandya, Channapatna, Ramanagaram, KSR Bengaluru & Bengaluru Cant.
9	16585 SMVT Bengaluru-Murdeshwar Exp.	17.07.2026 to 19.07.2026	SMVT Bengaluru- Banaswadi - Hebbal- Yesvantpur- KSR Bengaluru	Bengaluru Cant.
10	16512 Kozhikkode- KSR Bengaluru Exp.	16.06.2026 to 30.07.2026	Divert to SMVT Bengaluru via Yesvantpur - Hebbal-Banaswadi and terminated at SMVT Bengaluru at 07.45 hrs	-
11	16511 KSR Bengaluru-Kozhikkode Exp.	17.06.2026 to 31.07.2026	To be Originated from SMVT Bengaluru and will run via Banaswadi - Hebbal- Yesvantpur	-
12	11013 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Coimbatore Exp.	30.07.26 to 02.08.26	Yelahanka - Yesvantpur (Loco reversal)-Lottegolahalli- Banaswadi - Baiyyappanahalli Cabin - Hosur (Additional stoppage at Yesvantpur- 21.20/ 21.40).	Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Cant. & KSR Bengaluru
13	22688 Varanasi-Mysuru Exp.	30.07.26 and 01.08.26	Arsikere-Hassan-Krishnarajanagar-Mysuru	Tumakuru, Yesvantpur, KSR Bengaluru, Kengeri & Mandya
14	16209 Ajmer - Mysuru Exp.	31.07.2026 & 02.08.2026	Arsikere-Hassan-Krishnarajanagar-Mysuru	Tumakuru, Yesvantpur, Malleswaram, KSR Bengaluru, Ramanagaram & Mandya
15	20676 Mysuru-Belagavi Exp.	01.08.26 to 03.08.26	Mysuru- Krishnarajanagar-Hassan-Arsikere	Pandavapura, Mandya, Maddur, Channapatna, Ramanagaram, Bidadi, Kengeri, KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Tumakuru & Tiptur
16	20675 Belagavi-Mysuru Exp.	01.08.26 to 03.08.26	Arsikere-Hassan-Krishnarajanagar- Mysuru	Tiptur, Tumakuru, Yesvantpur, KSR Bengaluru, Kengeri, Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya & Pandavapura
17	11014 Coimbatore - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Exp.	01.08.26 to 03.08.26	Hosuru- Baiyyappanahalli Cabin - Banaswadi - Lottegollahalli- Yesvantpur (Loco reversal)- Yelahanka (Additional stoppage at Yesvantpur- 15.30/ 16.00).	Bengaluru Cant. & KSR Bengaluru
18	66575 Banaswadi - Tumakuru MEMU	01.08.26 and 03.08.26	Banaswadi - Yesvantpur 'A' Cabin - Chikbanavar	Yesvantpur
19	66576 Tumakuru-Banaswadi MEMU	01.08.26 and 03.08.26	Yesvantpur 'A' Cabin - Lottegollahalli- Hebbal-Banaswadi	Yesvantpur
21	16021 Dr MGR Chennai Central-Ashokapuram Exp.	03.08.26	Krishnarajapuram-Baiyyappanahalli-Banaswadi-Hebbal- Yesvantpur 'A' Cabin- Chikbanavar-Nelamangala-Hassan-Krishnarajanagar- Mysuru	Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Cant., KSR Bengaluru, Kengeri, Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya & Pandavapura
22	16217 Mysuru-Sainagar Shirdi Exp.	03.08.26	Krishnarajanagar-Hassan-Arsikere- Mysuru	Mandya, Kengeri, KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur & Tumakuru
23	16220 Tirupati-Chamarajanagar Exp.	31.07.2026 to 03.08.2026	Krishnarajapuram-Baiyyappanahalli-Banaswadi-Hebbal- Yesvantpur 'A' Cabin- Chikbanavar-Nelam

India in elite club with ballistic missile defence capability

Moves Closer To Having Own 'Iron Dome'

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DRDO successfully tested two advanced interceptor missiles which are designed for Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile defence capable of detecting and destroying ballistic missiles with ranges between 2,000 km and 5,000 km

New Delhi: India has successfully conducted three consecutive flight-tests on June 10 and 11 (Wednesday and Thursday) to demonstrate its multi-layered ballistic missile defence system (BMD) capability to intercept long and medium-range missiles.

The tests have put the country in the elite group of nations having BMD capability to engage up to Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), the defence ministry said in a statement Saturday. Currently, only a very few countries, including the US, Russia, China and Israel, are known to have such capabilities.

To give shape to India's own Iron Dome, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested two advanced interceptor missiles designed for Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) defence from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur. These interceptor systems are capable of detecting, tracking and destroying hostile aircraft and ballistic missiles with ranges between 2,000 km and 5,000 km.

Separately, a maiden flight-test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range was carried out successfully. The missile demonstrated pinpoint navigation, low-level sea-skimming flight and terminal accuracy against maritime targets. Defence minister Rajnath Singh, in a post on X on Saturday, said, "... These tests have put India in the elite group of nations having ballistic missile defence capabilities to engage ballistic missiles up to ICBMs."

These tests demonstrate multiple crucial technologies to bolster India's defence capabilities against different types of enemy threats.

A BMD system is an advanced network of radars, command centers, and interceptor missiles designed to detect, track, and destroy incoming ballistic missiles. They are critical components of modern national security, providing defensive deterrence by intercepting threats either within the atmosphere (endo-atmospheric) or in space (exo-atmospheric). Endo-atmospheric missiles are the ones that operate within the earth's atmosphere that covers an altitude below 100 km. Exo-atmospheric missiles are capable of completing missions in the upper-most region of the earth's atmosphere. Defence secretary and DRDO chairman Rajesh Kumar Singh closely monitored the trials.

Rubio tells commercial vessels to obey US forces

▶ Continued from page 1

US forces have fired upon three vessels with Indian seafarers on board in the past 6 days, accusing them of evading the US blockade.

A State Department readout also said that as they discussed the situation in Strait of Hormuz, Rubio stressed that all commercial vessels should immediately comply with orders from US forces as they seek to "uphold peace and security in the Strait". This comes a day after India told the US charge d'affaires here, Jason Meeks, that use of lethal force against civilian shipping is unacceptable.

According to official sources here, India will continue to press upon the US to avoid any action that endangers the lives of seafarers or impedes commercial shipping. India had condemned the US strike on Palau-flagged MT Marivex on June 8. However, the ministry of external affairs summoned Meeks two days later after another ship, MT Settebello, was struck by precision munitions.

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth to be next Army chief

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New Delhi: Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, who has earned the rare distinction of commanding two operational Army commands and currently serves as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, has been appointed the next Army chief.

As a Lt General, Seth also commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations. He will take charge with effect from June 30 from current Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi.

With a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, **Lt General Dhiraj Seth** has had extensive experience across the operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains, contributing significantly to the Army's combat effectiveness and long-term transformation.

On elevation to the Army Commander, the officer commanded South Western Command and Southern Command and provided strategic oversight across critical theaters for over two and half years. He has held several key staff and strategic appointments that have significantly influenced operational planning, force management and capability development, the defence ministry said in a release.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, he was commissioned into the armoured corps in Dec 1986.

Brain-dead boy, 3, donates organs to 4 persons in Pune

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Pune: A three-year-old boy declared brain-dead on June 12 has become the youngest paediatric organ donor in Pune zone, giving hope to two paediatric patients and restoring sight of two others.

The boy had suffered severe injuries from an accidental fall from the second floor of his home in Tadiwala Road area. He was admitted to a private hospital on June 2 in critical condition.

"The boy's kidneys and liver were allocated to two patients at private hospitals in the city, while both corneas were donated to restore vision to two patients with corneal blindness," Aarti Gokhale, coordinator at the Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee, Pune, said.

Investigators reconstruct events using CCTV footage

▶ Continued from page 1

Sources familiar with the assessment said Ramesh survived because he was hurled out of the aircraft while still strapped to his seat, located beside an emergency exit near a section of fuselage that later split apart on impact.

According to sources, the rear section of the aircraft slammed into BJ Medical College's hostel-mess complex after losing altitude shortly after take-off. When the aircraft broke apart, the force of the impact flung Ramesh and his seat about 50ft from wreckage before landing in a muddy patch, a source said.

Seconds later, the forward section crashed into the hostel complex and erupted in flames. By then, Ramesh had landed behind the mud embankment, which absorbed much of the heat, flames and blast force unleashed by the explosion, sparing him fatal burns. He escaped with a dislocated shoulder and minor facial injuries and was shifted to Ahmedabad civil hospital.

"The mound acted as a shield between him and the aircraft. It protected him from the direct impact of the fireball, heat and flames generated by the explosion," a source said. Investigators reconstructed the sequence of events using CCTV footage and other evidence gathered from the crash site. They have also obtained a video recorded from the opposite side of aircraft, offering a fresh perspective on crash sequence, sources said.

Police break into TMC neta's home looking for aide wanted in land case

Tamaghna Banerjee, Sarthak Ganguly & Sujoy Khanra

Kolkata/Midnapore: Police broke open locks and searched TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's residence in south Kolkata's Kalighat before dawn Saturday while looking for his personal assistant Sumit Roy, an accused in an alleged land-deal case in West Midnapore district.

Ex-CM Mamata Banerjee rushed to her nephew's Kalighat Road home around 6.30am after learning police had forced entry. She remained inside through the operation and left only after officers wrapped up the search around 8am. "We went to the MP's residence around 3am after tracking Roy through his cell phone tower location. We waited over 3 hours," a senior Salboni police officer said. No one opened the door, forcing us to call disaster management personnel, who brought gas cutters to break open the locks so we could enter," a senior Salboni police officer said. Roy was not found. Salboni, where the case is being investigated, is in West Midnapore district, about 140km from Kolkata.

The search adds to mounting legal troubles around Abhishek, who faces scrutiny in multiple cases, including Signgate controversy, alleged poll-code violations, a 2018 political assault case and a 2020 Amphan relief corruption case. The ED and CBI had named him in probes linked to alleged coal-smuggling, cattle-smuggling and school recruitment irregularities. Abhishek, questioned by the CID for 5 hours and 30 minutes Thursday in the forged-signature case, faces another demanding week.

Seven-time MP Sudip defects, takes TMC rebels' strength to 20

Dipawali Mitra, Tamaghna Banerjee & Saikat Ray | TNN

Kolkata: The mutiny in TMC dealt Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee another heavy blow on Saturday as 7-time Lok Sabha MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay crossed over to the dissident camp, taking its strength to 20.

Rebel MPs are expected to huddle over dinner on Sunday before meeting Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla on Monday to stake claim as the "real TMC" and seek recognition as a separate bloc aligned with NDA. Sources in the breakaway camp said they would ask Birla to separate them from the official TMC parliamentary party headed by Abhishek and allot them independent seating.

Sudip flew to New Delhi on Saturday morning, met Union minister Bhupender Yadav and later Union minister Amit Shah. Sudip's wife, Chowringhee MLA Nayna Bandopadhyay, is also expected to join the rebel group.

Among TMC's most senior parliamentarians, Sudip is tipped to replace Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as face of the rebel bloc. Several dissident MPs were reportedly uncomfortable with Kakoli's command. Both Kakoli and Satabdi Roy have publicly signalled support to NDA. Satabdi accompanied Sudip to Yadav's residence but declined to comment. The rebel group claims support of 20 of TMC's 28 Lok Sabha MPs. Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia, one of the dissidents, said they consider themselves the real TMC, though their formal position before the speaker will be finalised Sunday.

After Mum b'day cake ordeal, pins & wires in food banned

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WHAT FSSAI HAS PROHIBITED

- Metallic staple pins in food packaging
- Metallic wires used for sealing or fastening food packs
- Similar metallic materials used to secure food products
- Use in bakery products, sweet boxes, snack packets and takeaway food packaging
- Immediate compliance mandated
- Violations can attract action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

AI Image

New Delhi: A bowling-themed birthday cake that had delighted three-year-old Reyaansh from Thane during a family celebration May 31 turned into a nightmare when the toddler unknowingly swallowed two metal wires hidden inside decorative cake toppers. The following day, which was his actual birthday, the family found itself in hospital instead of celebrating after scans revealed the pieces had travelled to the child's intestine.

For nearly 48 hours, Reyaansh's family anxiously waited as doctors monitored the movement of the wires, fearing they could cause internal injury or require surgery. The objects were eventually excreted naturally, sparing the child an operation.

Less than two weeks later, food regulator FSSAI has ordered an immediate halt to use of metallic pins, wires and similar materials in food products and packaging, citing the risk of accidental ingestion and injury.

The nationwide advisory, issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on June 12, follows reports of metallic pins and wires being found in cakes and attached to food packets. "There exists a significant risk that such pins may inadvertently be consumed by consumers, resulting in injury and adverse health consequences," FSSAI said in its advisory.

The order covers use of metallic pins, wires and similar materials for sealing, fastening, securing or packaging food items, including bakery products, sweet boxes, snack pouches, takeaway meals and other packaged foods.

Food businesses have been directed to discontinue the practice with immediate effect and adopt safer alternatives for packaging and sealing. The regulator warned that non-compliance could invite penal action under provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and regulations framed under it.

The advisory has been circulated to food business operators and food safety commissioners across states and UTs for enforcement.

The move is expected to accelerate a shift towards heat-sealed packaging, adhesive seals and other food-safe fastening methods while reducing the risk of accidental ingestion of metallic objects.

NEW TECH TO TAME BULLET TRAIN TUNNEL BOOM

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will become the first railway project in India to use tunnel hood technology at mountain tunnel portals to reduce noise and improve the aerodynamic performance of high-speed trains. The bullet train corridor passes through challenging terrain and includes seven mountain tunnels in Maharashtra and one in Gujarat. Tunnel hoods will be installed at both ends of these tunnels. When a high-speed train enters a tunnel, it pushes a large volume of air ahead of it, creating pressure waves. If these are not controlled, they can generate a loud "tunnel boom" when the train exits the tunnel.

Isro working on tech to keep lunar landers alive for 200 days

Bengaluru: India is developing technology that could enable future lunar landers to survive on the Moon for up to 200 days, a significant advancement from the 14 day operational lifespan achieved by the Chandrayaan 3 mission, Isro chairman Narayanan said.

Speaking about the ongoing research in Bengaluru on Saturday, Isro chairman said the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), was working to overcome one of the biggest challenges in lunar exploration — surviving the harsh and prolonged lunar night.

Narayanan said the effort was focused on developing advanced artificial heating systems capable of protecting spacecraft components during the extremely low temperatures experienced on the Moon after sunset.

On August 23, 2023, India created history by becoming the first country to successfully land a spacecraft near the Moon's south pole through the Chandrayaan-3 mission. However, the Vikram lander remained operational for only one lunar day, or about 14 Earth days, as it relied on solar energy to generate power. IANS

Cop convicted for notepad attack on helmetless biker

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Ahmedabad: Laljibhai Makwana, a traffic constable, was on duty during a routine traffic enforcement at Shivranjani crossroads here on Nov 19, 2007, when he spotted a helmetless motorcyclist. Makwana signalled the biker to stop, in vain. As the biker attempted to dodge him, he hurled a notepad he was carrying towards the motorcycle.

The notepad struck the rider in the face, causing him to lose control of the vehicle. Both the rider and his sister fell onto the road. The impact damaged the rider's spectacles and left him with an eye injury. Another policeman rushed him to a hospital.

The following day, the injured rider, Manish Makwana, lodged a complaint against the traffic constable. After investigation, a chargesheet was filed, and the matter proceeded to trial.

More than 18 years on, an Ahmedabad rural court has now held the constable, since retired, guilty of causing the accident by throwing a notepad at the rider. However, the court stopped short of sending him to jail, citing his age, service background, and other mitigating circumstances. Instead, it granted him the benefit of probation and directed that compensation of Rs 30,000 be paid to the injured motorcyclist.

During the sentencing stage, Makwana urged the court to take a lenient view. He requested that a compensation be imposed instead of imprisonment. Additional chief judicial magistrate Nirmalsinh Gadhvi accepted the plea. "Instead of imposing a jail sentence, the court is of the view that the ends of justice would be adequately served by directing the accused to pay reasonable compensation to the injured person," the court said.

20-yr-old woman gangraped, robbed of ₹40K using UPI in MP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: A 20-year-old woman in Madhya Pradesh was allegedly gangraped, thrashed and forced to transfer Rs 40,000 using UPI by two men working at her house as painters in Sidhi district. When the alleged assault took place on Thursday, she was alone at her house.

The two accused, identified as Anup Saket and Rakesh Saket, both aged around 21 years, first thrashed her and made her transfer Rs 40,000 using UPI, and then they allegedly took turns to rape her. The woman narrated her ordeal to her parents when they returned late evening.

The family promptly approached the police, which registered a case and launched a hunt. Both accused were arrested Friday.

"Anup, who was on one-day police remand, was sent to judicial remand on Saturday, while Rakesh is in police remand till June 16 as further investigation is going on," police officer Divya Prakash Tripathi told TOI. "She sustained injuries on her head and had got stitches."

How families can support a patient with schizophrenia who rejects help

To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI's ***Talk it Out*** *series brings expert counsellors to answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from professor of psychiatry* ***Dr Johnson Pradeep***

Image: AI

■ I'm from Bengaluru. My 30-year-old son is a schizophrenia patient. He gets violent and physically abuses us at times. Though he is on prescribed medicines for the past two years, he refuses to visit the doctor. He has no idea about his condition, but says he gets suspicious sometimes which makes him feel aggressive, and that's when he wants to abuse his parents. But he doesn't want to meet a counsellor to discuss his issues. What should we do? Please advise.

— Anonymous

Schizophrenia is a treatable illness, but many patients may not recognise that they are unwell. Suspiciousness, irritability, aggression, and refusal to seek help can occur as part of the illness itself. Since your son is already on medication, regular supervision of treatment and follow-up are essential, even if he refuses to attend consultations personally. Family members can meet the treating psychiatrist to discuss behavioural changes, aggression, sleep, medication adherence, and possible side effects. A short-term admission to a psychiatric in-patient ward may help monitor and adjust his medications, ensure safety, and facilitate gradual insight into his illness and the need for continued treatment. Avoid arguing with him about his beliefs or forcing him to accept the diagnosis, as this may increase mistrust and aggression. Maintain calm communication, avoid confrontations during periods of anger, and watch for warning signs such as increased suspiciousness, disturbed sleep, or verbal aggression. If there is risk of serious violence, seek emergency psychiatric help immediately. Family psycho-education and support are equally important as caregiving can be emotionally exhausting. With consistent treatment and timely intervention, many patients improve significantly.

■ My parents never let me go out by myself or with friends. I'm a 16-year-old girl from Delhi, old enough to go out in my own city. On social media, I see people my age (including my friends) and younger hanging out together, going to malls, eating out, etc. But I'm not even allowed to go to parks without my parents. I want to travel to many places when I grow up. It scares me to think, what if they never let me?

— Anonymous

Adolescence is a stage where young people naturally seek independence, friendships, and opportunities to explore the world. At the same time, many parents, especially in today's environment, worry deeply about safety and may get overprotective out of concern rather than lack of trust. Instead of comparing yourself with friends, try having a calm and honest conversation with your parents. Explain that you are not asking for complete freedom overnight, but gradual independence. Start with small, trust-building steps such as visiting a nearby mall or park with known friends, sharing your location, staying connected over phone, and returning home on time. When parents see responsibility and consistency, they are often more willing to relax restrictions. It's also important for parents to recognise that excessive control can increase frustration, anxiety, and emotional distance in adolescents. Healthy independence is an essential part of emotional growth and confidence-building. Mutual trust develops slowly. Patience, open communication, and respecting each other's concerns can help both parents and teenagers find a balanced middle path.

■ I'm a 16-year-old boy from Ahmedabad who gets extremely anxious during exams. Even though I prepare well, I start panicking while writing. During a Maths exam earlier, I was so overwhelmed with fear that I went to the washroom and abused myself for not completing the paper properly. I passed somehow, but the pattern repeats in English and other difficult subjects, making my performance suffer. I'm not tall for my age, nor do I think I'm good-looking. I've never spoken to a girl in my entire life, thinking they would be a distraction. Over time, I have begun to feel nervous around girls. I've been working on self-improvement, exercising regularly for the last four years. I stay away from social media. I had a serious pornography addiction when I was 13-14 years old. Even though I've gained better control now, I still feel awkward when I think about talking to girls. I'm also confused about my career path after class 12. I'm not sure whether I should take commerce and start a business right after school, or take PCM and become a software engineer first before starting my business. What should I do?

— Anonymous

What you are experiencing is more common than many students realise. Severe exam anxiety can affect concentration, memory, and performance even in students who prepare well. The fear, self-criticism, and panic you described during exams suggest your stress levels may be overwhelming your ability to think calmly in the moment. Learning relaxation techniques, practicing mock exams under timed conditions, and seeking support from a mental health expert can help you gradually manage this anxiety more effectively. Your concerns about appearance and talking to girls also reflect low self-esteem and social anxiety. Healthy friendships and respectful interactions with girls should not be viewed as distractions but as a normal part of emotional and social development. It is encouraging that you exercise regularly, avoid excessive social media, and have worked to overcome pornography-related difficulties. These show self-discipline and insight. Regarding career decisions, there is no single 'correct' path. Choose a stream based on your interests, strengths, and long-term goals. Career counselling and guidance from mentors can help you make a more informed decision.

TalkitOut

WANT SOME ADVICE?

Sharing can help your recovery so write to us at **talkitout@timesofindia.com** with your question, name and place. But if you wish to stay anonymous, do indicate that in your email.

You can also visit bit.ly/TOITalkItOut or scan this QR code to send in your concern.

Housework deserves rights, not halos

BY INVITATION

ASHWINI DESHPANDE

This week, the Supreme Court put a floor under the value of a homemaker's labour: a minimum of Rs 30,000 a month. The loss of "domestic care" when a homemaker dies or is incapacitated in a road accident, the bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and N K Singh held, is a distinct injury to the family, deserving compensation in its own right. The court noted what economists have long documented: women's unpaid care work contributes an estimated 15-17% of India's GDP, yet remains invisible. The bench also called homemakers "nation builders": a eulogy that I will return to.

The judgment is the latest milestone in a quietly progressive strand of Indian jurisprudence. In Jan 2021, the Supreme Court in Kirti v Oriental Insurance held that a homemaker's notional income must be seriously computed in accident claims, with Justice N V Ramana observing that this recognises the labour of millions of women. In June 2023, Madras high court went further. Justice Krishnan Ramasamy, in Kannaian Naidu v Kamsala Ammal, ruled that a wife who "toils as a homemaker" is entitled to an equal share in assets standing in her husband's name, because his ability to go out and earn rested on her unpaid labour at home. Hers, the judge noted, is a 24-hour job without holidays; it cannot be ranked below the husband's eight-hour one.

The numbers behind these judgments are stark. India's Time Use Survey shows women spend close to five hours a day on unpaid domestic work, against barely half an hour for men — among the most unequal divisions in the world. This burden is the single biggest barrier to women's paid work in India, and it shapes the terms of re-entry: later, lower, for less.

When Kamal Haasan's party promised "salaries for housewives" before the 2021 Tamil Nadu elections, I argued in these pages against the idea. My objection stands. A monthly wage for housework — paid by the husband or by the state — takes the male-breadwinner family as a given and sets it in concrete. It converts an unjust division of labour into a permanent job description. It would deepen women's dependence, not reduce it: a salary routed through the household would, in most Indian homes, not be under the woman's own control. And it says nothing about the real issue — that men share the work.

So, are the courts doing what I argued against? No, and the distinction is the difference between pocket money and power. Wages for housework would pay women to stay where they are. The courts are instead recognising the value of women's unpaid labour at the point where entitlements are decided. Madras high court did not order husbands to pay their wives a salary. It said the house, the land, the savings that accumulate during a marriage are joint products of his employment and her labour, and she owns half. That is not a wage; that is a property right. Ownership gives women what a salary never could: a claim independent of the husband's goodwill, bargaining power within the marriage, and a viable exit from a bad one.

Now, about the halo. Courts and politicians alike reach for the language of veneration: homemakers as nation builders, mothers as goddesses, the home as the woman's temple. This is precisely the vocabulary conservative voices deploy to sanctify women's confinement to the home. They glorify the pedestal, and no one asks why she cannot step off it. Women do not cook and clean out of patriotism; they do it because an unequal division of labour leaves them little choice. These judgments matter for the entitlements they create — compensation and property shares — not for the eulogies that accompany them.

CHORE GAP: A scene from 'Lunchbox'. Courts now recognise invisible labour. Next step's a matrimonial property law

The limits are also clear. Recognition that arrives only when a woman dies in an accident, or when a marriage ends in litigation, is recognition deferred — a posthumous audit of a lifetime of work. And as Justice Ramasamy himself noted, no Indian law yet recognises a wife's contribution to matrimonial property; he could rule as he did, but another judge may not.

That is the unfinished agenda. Parliament should codify what the courts have begun: a matrimonial property law treating marriage as an equal economic partnership. Women who keep family farms and firms running — while being counted as 'not working' — must be recognised as workers with a claim on the earnings. Public investment in childcare and eldercare must shift the load off women's shoulders, instead of pricing it there.

The courts have stopped pretending that housework is a labour of love with no economic worth. The harder task is ours: to stop believing it is women's work. The most radical valuation of housework is not a number a judge fixes after a tragedy, nor a halo — it is a husband doing half of it, unremarked, on an ordinary Tuesday. ■

Deshpande is head of the Economics dept, Ashoka University

Then bus conductors listened to our poems. City of Mumbai has changed, but so have I

*At 91, **Gulzar** has outlived at least two versions of the city, the one that destiny "deposited" him into in 1950, and the one he continues to observe and absorb. 'Aamchi Mumbai', his new collection of 36 poems and 25 stories, is not an attempt to explain Mumbai in 2026 but to preserve the city that lives inside him, populated by migrants and mill workers, eccentrics and survivors. Speaking to **Mohua Das**, he reflects on why poetry is his way of making sense of the world*

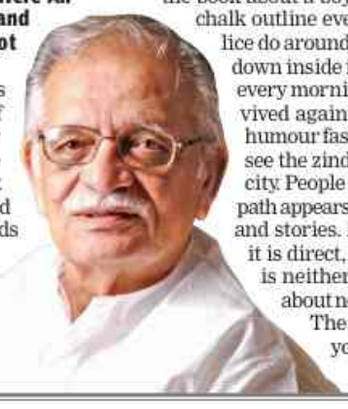
FOR THE RECORD

You have lived through mills becoming malls and Bombay becoming Mumbai. What do you miss most?

I remember the Bombay of mills, with smoke constantly rising from the chimneys. It was an industrial city, known for textiles across the country. I remember buses where no passenger was allowed to stand. It was a city of progressive labour unions, labour laws and workers' movements. I have seen workers' rallies and remember (Shripad) Dange Sahab, the great union leader, carrying the banner and leading those marches. Mazdoor gareeb zaroor the, par us gareebi mein bhi ek izzat thi. Usme sharmindagi nahin thi. (The workers may have been poor, but there was dignity in that poverty. There was no shame in it.) We used to attend Progressive Writers' Association meetings at Charni Road with people like Sardar Jafri, Rajindra Singh Bedi, Krishan Chander and Sahir Sahab. We were younger writers, so after those meetings ended, we would continue our discussions on the upper deck of a tram all the way to Dadar. Conductors and passengers would listen to poems and stories and even participate. All that is not there now.

And yet, in poems such as 'These Were All Villages, Once!', 'Sealink', 'Haji Ali' and 'Skyline', there is nostalgia but not necessarily resistance to change...

What Mumbai has retained is its progressive outlook. Earlier, if somebody wanted to dream bigger or look beyond the country, the route somehow passed through Bombay. Even today, Mumbai looks outward and pushes people from the national towards the international. The skyline has changed completely. I remember how Mira-Bhayandar, Borivali and Bhandup, once jungles, have become mini Mumbais. There are tall buildings where once there were palm trees and open views. But some things have become more beautiful. Haji Ali earlier felt trapped within the city. Today, when you pass it from the flyover, especially during high tide, it looks like a gem to me. The city has grown, but some of that change is beautiful.



You view the city from street level, sometimes even below street level... the beggar at a traffic signal, life on the footpath, chawls, scavengers. How have you kept that line of sight open?

I would say not only eyes, keep your antennas open, and the city will nourish you and keep you informed. If I spend the whole day at home and then go out in the evening to look for life, then I am finished as a writer. Life is not displayed in a showroom. It is touching you every moment. That is true not only for writers but for painters, musicians, actors and performers.

We find very little of the glitzy or corporate side of Mumbai in the collection. Was that a deliberate choice?

I think it is one's temperament... what you notice and what attracts you. There is a story in the book about a boy who draws his own chalk outline every night like the police do around dead bodies and lies down inside it only to roll out of it every morning and say, 'See, I survived again today'. His sense of humour fascinates me. You must see the zinda (living) part of the city. People ask me why the footpath appears so often in my poems and stories. My association with it is direct, not imagined. But it is neither something to boast about nor turn into a tragedy. The struggle is not that you slept on a footpath. The struggle is how you lived through it. Suppose a man has lost a leg. Do you think he never smiles or is never happy? He may limp and clean taxis or rickshaws for a living, but he still laughs and lives. Don't count him out.

Poetry has been at the heart of your writings, whether in ghazals, nazms, film lyrics, experiments with tanka or presenting poets across borders. What do you value most in poetic expression?

I look for a live moment in a poem. I'm not giving a lesson. I am working on a show about the environment. But environment is not about saying, look how dirty things have become. How do you make people aware of trees? Of leaves? My next book, called 'Spinning the Moments', has a poem called 'Ek akela patta' where a tree is half submerged in flood water, but that one lone leaf still attached to the tree whispers to it, 'Darna mat, main hoon na'. My heart goes out to that moment. That's what makes a poem.

Most of your books, including 'Aamchi Mumbai' are bilingual, but so much of your writing is in the wordplay and nuances. After years of translating and being translated, what is essential even when carried into another language?

A young man from Kerala once wrote to me asking if he could publish a Malayalam version of my book 'Suspected Poems' that his father had translated while he was in jail during a communist movement. I liked the gesture and told him to go ahead. Later, he came to meet me with the book. That act of sharing is wonderful.

You describe Mumbai as a lifelong partner who has 'admonished', 'beaten' and 'scared' you, but 'never dropped you from its lap'. What do you understand about the city — and about yourself — today that you didn't when you first arrived at Bombay Central as a teenager?

Bombay is like the eldest brother in a family who takes care of the younger ones. When I write, 'Yeh shehar woh nahin jahan main 60 saal pehle aaya tha' (This is not the city where I arrived 60 years ago), the city replies to me: 'Yeh sab theek hai, par tum bhi woh nahin jo 60 saal pehle aaye the.' (All that may be true, but you are not the same person who arrived here 60 years ago either.) It is because of us that the city changes, and it is because of the city that we change. The migrating population that comes every day and goes back leaves its impressions. The city learns from them and makes space for them.

When The Beautiful Game goes behind paywalls and visa walls

BY INVITATION

SARTHAK DEV

'La Pelota Vuelve A Casa'. The streets outside Mexico City's Azteca Stadium are lined with flags carrying this slogan, which translates to 'The ball has come home.' Forty years after the Azteca was immortalised into football lore by Diego Maradona's raised hands, the World Cup has come back to Mexico, and along with it, Canada and the US. But home?

Home is where the heart rests at ease, where the warm glow of the sun illuminates the air inside. Home is where friends become family. Home is where you stumble towards, late at night, and the moment the door opens, know that you're safe. Home is where you want to return to every day. Coming home, if the poster is insistent about its message, has never felt so hostile.

Holding 80% of the world's biggest sporting event in the world's richest economy meant a few things could be taken for granted: ease of movement, abundant infrastructure, first-world stadium experience, and a chance to, even if for a fleeting moment, experience life on the other side of the Statue of Liberty.

Instead, even getting to the World Cup is hard. The Trump administration's visa blacklist spans more than 75 countries, including many participating in the World Cup. Fans from these countries will have to fork out $5000-$15000 for a bond to enter the US. That's merely a pinprick. At the airport are rifle-carrying immigration agents in Kevlar vests who will let you know they're doing you a favour, if at all they agree to let you in. Omar Abdulkadir Artan, a Somalian referee accredited by FIFA for the World Cup, was interrogated at the Miami airport for eleven hours and then thrown into a holding cell. After questioning him about his ties to terror groups, Artan was sent back to where he came from. Iranian fans were told that their ticket allocation, mandatory for all participating teams, had been completely revoked. The Senegal and Uzbekistan teams were searched and frisked in disrespectful, dehumanising ways. And while all this was happening, FIFA president Gianni Infantino was launching new cryptocurrency partners and hobnobbing with celebrity streamers.

This week, the US played their first men's home World Cup match in 32 years. The cheapest ticket for that game, a seat somewhere high in the nosebleed section of the Los Angeles Stadium, costs nearly $2000—more than the most expensive ticket for the last World Cup final. Currently, the average cheapest ticket price for group-stage games in the 11 US host cities exceeds the most expensive tickets for knockout games at every previous World Cup. The cheapest tickets for the World Cup final are currently going at five figures. I hope you won't bother finding out how much the most expensive tickets cost.

FIFA have arrived here through what they call 'dynamic pricing', which means surges and dips based on demand. And their argument is that these high prices, across all phases of the tournament, are reflective of a server-crashing melee. And then, three days before the opening ceremony, FIFA dumped nearly 180,000 unsold group stage tickets on their official resale website.

In many cities, public transport prices have been raised sharply, while parking spaces at stadiums cost hundreds of dollars per game. Then, despite scientists' warnings of oppressive heat at host cities, it took a massive backlash for FIFA to allow fans to carry water bottles to stadiums. The fine print, however, is that fans are allowed only one filled bottle per person. For more, they'd have to dig out tens of dollars towards the official water partner.

Who, truly, is this tournament for? A World Cup is supposed to be a festival for the world — for fans from tiny countries to share space with a CEO from New York, for travellers on shoestring budgets to make new friendships and memories with other travellers from a different continent. And for all of them to arrive at a stadium, a bowl of concrete and plastic, and inject it with life.

The pull of a World Cup is illustrated best in the story of Pannalal and Chaitali Chatterjee, a couple of modest means from Kidderpore in Kolkata. Between 1982 and 2018, they travelled to ten consecutive World Cups, even when their own country was never in one. Which fan, outside the first world, will be able to follow their team across this summer of greed?

In Leo Tolstoy's 'How Much Land Does a Man Need?', Pahom keeps acquiring more land for his greed, until the pursuit kills him. If the quarter-million unsold tickets and all the unbought hotel rooms are any sign, FIFA might be close to the point where they learn a lesson about how much exploitation their biggest stakeholders, the fans, will endure.

Twenty-five years ago, on the day of his retirement, Diego Maradona had said, "La pelota no se mancha." The ball shouldn't get stained. Sorry, Diego, the ball has become filthy. ■

12 years later, a stronger state, but a more contested republic

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Twelve years after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, promising 'minimum government, maximum governance', India stands transformed. The transformation is real. Some of it is also troubling.

The economy is stronger. India grew by a remarkable 7.7% in 2025-26 despite Trump's tariffs and the Iran war. It has overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy. The state is also more digitised and capable. The NDA govt did not invent many programmes transforming India but implemented them so well that they are now linked with Modi, who has surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru's record as longest continuously serving elected PM. Bank accounts for all, and Aadhaar were conceived of by the UPA. Rural electrification, rural roads, and sanitation all predated 2014. But under his govt, Aadhaar enrolment expanded from 65 crore to 140 crore, and Jan Dhan accounts from almost zero to 55 crore. Swachh Bharat built 11 crore toilets. Virtually every rural house now gets electricity.

The combination of Aadhaar, UPI, and direct benefit transfers has created a digital public infrastructure unmatched in most of the world. India now accounts for nearly half of global real-time digital payments.

Equally important has been India's emergence as a technology hub. More than 1,800 Global Capability Centres — once called in-house centres — of multinationals now operate in India, employing over two million professionals. Starting as back-office operations, they are now centres for high-end design and artificial intelligence. Google, Amazon, and Microsoft plan to invest $67.4 billion in new data centres to be used to design AI programmes. The patents will be held by multinationals, but the GCCs will create millions of top-class Indian technocrats who will eventually be hired by India's top companies, spreading the high-tech benefits widely.

Global venture-capital and private equity funds have created a revolution in start-ups, 110 of which have become unicorns—worth over a billion dollars each. This has greatly broadened the corporate base, offsetting concentration in conventional fields. Tata, Reliance, and Adani are investing heavily in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, batteries, data centres, and renewable energy, backed by the govt. Modi aims to create Indian national champions capable of competing globally, much as South Korea once nurtured Samsung and Hyundai.

Yet at the same time, democratic institutions have weakened, the space for dissent has shrunk, the political neutrality of investigative agencies is contested, and minorities increasingly fear they are second-class citizens.

PLUS MINUS: Aadhaar, UPI, and direct benefit transfers have created a digital public infrastructure unmatched in most of the world

Every major international democracy indicator points downward. The govt calls them biased. Yet when institutions across the world reach broadly similar conclusions, it can't be dismissed as just bias.

The Election Commission was once among India's most respected institutions. But a Lokniti-CSDS survey conducted last year found confidence in the EC falling, with only 28.6% saying they trust the EC to a "great extent." The survey covered Delhi and five states. The deletion of nearly 90 lakh names from the West Bengal electoral rolls caused much controversy in the recent election. The EC says the deletions were all fair. But democracy depends not only on fairness but on voter perception of fairness.

Opposition points to what they see as growing use of investigative agencies as instruments of political pressure. When Eknath Shinde split the Shiv Sena in 2022 and formed an alliance with BJP, politicians who crossed over with him often found investigations losing urgency. Similar patterns emerged after defections from the NCP. The latest exodus of MLAs from the Trinamool Congress has generated similar allegations.

Nearly half the AAP's senior leadership ended up in jail in connection with a liquor policy, with former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal arrested in March 2024, weeks before the Lok Sabha election. The trial court acquitted him later, but he claimed the political damage had been done. BJP denied allegations that it was targeting opposition leaders.

Pew Research Centre's Social Hostilities index was 'very high' at 8.7/10 in 2014 and worsened to 9.3/10 as per data published in 2024. Pew's Government RestricIndex has gone from 4.8/10 to 6.4/10. Other rights organisations have also documented growing concerns about minority rights. Critics argue that inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech have become more common in public discourse.

Supporters of the govt point to economic gains and improved state capacity. Critics counter that the 'idea of India' has changed from secular democracy to a more majoritarian political order. Economic growth alone may not resolve these concerns. ■

WORD DROP

KOKUSHOBI

A new Japanese term, Kokushobi, is making the rounds globally, and it's not related to anime. It is Japan's newly adopted term for days when temperatures soar to 40°C or higher, reflecting the growing reality of extreme heat in a warming world. The word combines koku—meaning harsh, cruel, or severe—with shobi (hot day), and has been variously

translated as "cruelly hot day" or "severely hot day". Selected through a nationwide public vote, the introduction of the term is significant because it marks a linguistic response to climate change, as many countries across the globe see heat waves and temperatures regularly crossing 40°C. It is also a reminder that what was once considered exceptional weather is increasingly becoming part of everyday life.

INBOX

NOT A STAGE

Apropos of ' Dear Indian tourist...' (ATM , June 7), do we really need to blast music, gather a crowd and turn every space into our personal set? In order to feel welcome, Indian tourists must realise that travel is not a talent show, and not every airport is a stage.

—**M K Goel,** Delhi

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

Hum do, humare teen: A case for bringing back bigger families

BY INVITATION

JANHAVI NILEKANI

The recent SRS 2024 report shows that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 1.9, compared to a replacement rate of around 2.2. We are a rapidly ageing society, heading towards fewer working-age adults for every retiree.

Even this understates the scale of India's pending population decline. Over 500 million Indians — 40% of the population — live in states where TFR is at or below 1.5. There are no signs of a floor; fertility continues to drop in all regions.

In the govt maternity hospitals I work with, the labour wards are visibly emptying. Annual births peaked at about 29 million at the turn of the millennium. Today, around 23 million babies are born each year. As these ever-smaller birth cohorts grow up, the shrinkage spreads through the population. The absolute number of children has already peaked around 2010 and has been falling since.

Population decline is not inherently harmful, and we can adapt to its challenges. More working-age adults can join the workforce, especially given extremely low female labour force participation rates. Retirement ages can be increased. Machinery can replace human physical labour. Artificial intelligence can replace human cognitive labour. Internal migration can be expanded.

Adaptation, though, takes time. Nor is it guaranteed. Longer working lives, increased machinery and AI, reduced pensions, and increased internal migration — each of these is hugely controversial. Passing a single law on any of these subjects takes years.

PLAN CHANGE: Fifty years after Emergency, the system is still focused on reducing births

India's population management programmes themselves show how long reform can take. Fifty years after the Emergency, and twenty-five years after annual births peaked, the system is still focused on reducing births. Of married Indian women aged 15 to 49, 37% are permanently sterilised. If they later desire another child —due to infant loss, remarriage, improved financial circumstances — they no longer have the choice.

India urgently needs pro-natal policies that incentivise childbearing. Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh have moved in that direction with cash and other incentives, but much more is needed. While pronatalism won't reverse population decline, it can at least slow its pace. Keeping the national TFR above 1.5 and ensuring each individual state is above 1.1 is a reasonable ambition.

Stabilising TFR above 1.5 requires plenty of families with three or more children. Today, we think of three children as unaffordable, although rupee incomes have increased substantially. In terms of opportunity cost, though, children have become very expensive. Our options for careers, travel, and hobbies are better than ever before, and so, to have a child, we must give up more. In an earlier age, I might have had multiple kids. In this era, I opted for one son and time to write op-eds.

Today, at Aastrika, a maternity hospital in Bengaluru, a third child is a rarity, mainly seen among our expat clients. Yet, to slow population decline, three-child families need to become a mainstream choice. Realistically, some Indian adults will choose a childfree lifestyle while others will have a strong desire for 'one-and-done'. To compensate and keep overall TFR above 1.5, society must support large families. It's surely easier to support a family to have a third child than to encourage a committed single to settle down with an EMI, report cards, and parent-teacher meetings!

Supporting large families will require us to transfer resources through tax advantages, subsidies, and other incentives. This ensures that the cost of raising future generations falls on all adults, and not just on those who put in the hard work of child-rearing, from which the rest of us will benefit. Our policy debate is far from pronatalism, but in the meantime, we must at least stop disincentivising large families. Unfortunately, the two-child norm and anti-natal thinking are embedded throughout our policy architecture. Maternity leave benefits are 26 weeks for the first two children, and only 12 thereafter. Income-tax relief for education applies only for the first two offspring.

Such legislation needs urgent reform. At today's fertility rates, every 100 Indian adults are succeeded by just 49 adult grandchildren at Karnataka's TFR of 1.5, and only 37 at Tamil Nadu and Kerala's TFR of 1.3.

The gap between 1.5 and 1.3 sounds small. In reality, it is 49 adults rather than 37 in two generations — a substantial difference. Those extra adults protect society and living standards, in case robots and AI agents cannot be deployed at scale, or if regulatory infrastructure cannot adapt fast enough to population decreases. They allow us to care for the elderly with dignity.

In the past, family portraits centred grandparents, surrounded by their grandchildren. Today, portraits centre children, surrounded by their elders. We still have a window for cultural change: a revival of large families, siblings, and cousins. Not for all families. Not even for most. But for a meaningful minority. A gentle glide, rather than abrupt population collapse, requires full-throated embrace of a new credo: *Hum do, Humare teen.* ■

Nilekani is founder and chairperson of Aastrika Foundation and Aastrika Midwifery Centre

Now, Indians are getting paid to teach robots how to cook, clean and stitch

Pronto workers are not the only ones recording jobs. Global firms are paying everyone from homemakers to factory workers to film everyday tasks so that AI can do them better

Mohua Das@timesofindia.com

- *A woman washes dishes in a Gurugram apartment while a camera clipped to her records the movement of her hands around steel utensils and soap suds*
- *In a textile unit in Maharashtra, a worker stitches seams under a head-mounted camera that tracks tiny wrist adjustments and fabric tension*
- *Somewhere else, a delivery rider records himself weaving through traffic on a scooter, a cleaner folds hotel linen, and a street vendor sorts vegetables into neat pyramids*

CRAFT CODE: Textile workers wearing head-mounted cameras record stitching movements during an AI pilot at a factory in Maharashtra's Ichalkaranji

These are ordinary tasks. But for a growing number of AI companies, they are something else entirely: training material for robots that find these tiny movements that humans perform without thinking — like folding fabric, rinsing a plate or balancing a scooter through traffic — surprisingly difficult to replicate. In AI circles, the phrase for this is 'embodied intelligence', which is basically teaching machines to understand and interact with the physical world by learning from human movements and actions. And increasingly, India is the classroom.

A subreddit called 'Side Hustle India' is now dotted with posts offering paid work-from-home gigs to record everyday chores for AI companies. One recent listing advertised Rs 140 "per approved hour of recording" for people willing to wear a head-mounted phone strap and film themselves cooking, washing dishes, folding clothes, sweeping or making tea. "Videos are used (with your consent) to help train computer vision/AI to understand everyday actions in real homes," the post explained while reassuring applicants that "your face does not have to be visible".

> This whole space right now is a Wild West. A lot of these recordings are not happening for India but for other countries... It's a conversation buried in AI circles that the country needs to have
>
> **Talvinder Singh,** FOUNDER OF AN AMBIENT AI COACHING PLATFORM

The requirements sound almost banal: stable internet, a decent smartphone camera with 1080p resolution, stable frame rates, head-mounted recording, hands clearly visible, no nudity or bathroom footage, and caution to avoid sensitive documents. Participants could either buy a POV head strap and get reimbursed or have one shipped to them.

Elsewhere on the same subreddit, users swap notes on payouts and camera angles. Others debate whether Rs 110 to Rs 140 an hour was worth 'recording your private life for basically a dollar' while another commenter worried: "What if it's a syndicate trying to see inside your house?" Yet the offers keep multiplying because demand itself is exploding.

It was Pronto, an on-demand household-help platform operating across 11 Indian cities, that pushed much of this into public view recently when controversy erupted online over its workers recording domestic work. The backlash came from those who felt a camera inside a private home had crossed an invisible line.

On its website, Pronto defended its AI pilot programme, saying that its customers were voluntarily opting to have jobs recorded. They said that "faces and other identifying details in the footage are blurred automatically", "all footage is deleted within 48 hours", and that "none of this is meant to replace the work Professionals do. It is meant to pay them more for it."

Behind much of this human data collection are international companies like Human Archive, a Silicon Valley startup co-founded by Raj Patel that is partnering with on-demand household staffing platforms like Pronto to collect egocentric, or first-person point-of-view, video data of humans performing everyday physical tasks.

Patel announced an $8.2 million seed round earlier this month and said they are building hardware and mobile systems that "collect, label, and synchronise video, sensor, audio, and long-horizon data across homes, hotels, restaurants, agriculture, industrial, construction, retail, and other real-world environments." The company operates from the US and China but is building large parts of its data infrastructure in India.

Fledgling Indian companies like Al-Wadood Solutions also work with foreign AI platforms to collect and process video datasets. "What we're recording is human body movements, and hand and finger gestures... The systems are trying to understand all of that through captured data," says Tariq Bhat, whose company, based in Kupwara in Jammu & Kashmir, works with AI firms in the US and Norway.

"Right now, in these projects, we have around 300 active members from different parts of the world," he says. Around 80 contributors are from India alone, spread across Kashmir, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and southern states as well as Africa, the Philippines and West Asia. They include tailors, street vendors, factory workers, orchard labourers, manufacturing staff, biogas and chemical plant workers. Contributors are usually recruited through LinkedIn, WhatsApp and freelance networks, then hired project-wise.

Payments happen per "approved" recording hour after quality review. Aijaz Hajam, co-founder of Al-Wadood Solutions, says the task could be something as ordinary as making coffee. "You open the fridge, take out the milk, light up the gas, add water, milk and coffee. Each of these steps gets recorded."

"The pay depends on the kind of data being recorded," says Bhat. "For every hour of approved footage, foreign clients pay between Rs 400 and Rs 800. If it's an Indian client, it's Rs 150 to Rs 300." Household recordings sit at the lower end because the tasks are considered relatively simple. Industrial recordings pay more.

Until recently, it was mostly silent footage. "But now companies want annotated videos," Hajam says. Workers are now expected to narrate what they are doing while recording.

"The next frontier is prediction," Hajam says. "The camera records where my head is facing, but it cannot fully track my eye movement. That is why smart glasses with eye-tracking systems are becoming important." If somebody's eyes move toward the milk carton before their hands do, the system begins predicting the next action. Hajam imagines egocentric AI stitching these clips into larger behavioural models. "Not just to train humanoids but also the video wing of LLM models like ChatGPT or Llama"

The implications now extend far beyond kitchens and factories. Hajam says the company is already collecting healthcare-related data from paramedic staff like nurses and cleaners in Delhi, Gurugram and Hyderabad for systems linked to nursing care.

Talvinder Singh is the founder of Ostronaut, which builds ambient AI coaching devices for retail floor workers based on specific behaviour captured via audio and vision device. "The idea is not to replace humans but to use AI to capture moments to coach humans to perform better."

Singh says he personally drew a line at domestic spaces. "Capturing activity in public commercial spaces is one thing as opposed to somebody's private home. I wouldn't want to peek into somebody's private CCTV footage," he says, but admits, "Patel has opened an important can of worms that had so far remained buried inside AI circles but is a good conversation for the country to finally have."

Three months ago, Ken India, a textile manufacturing firm, ran a live AI pilot with egolab.ai at its factory in Ichalkaranji in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district. For a week, more than 500 workers strapped on camera devices while stitching and handling fabric.

Nikunj Bagdiya, Ken's managing director, says egolab.ai approached Ken India to study "the workflows of Indian workers on the floor". Bagdiya says the pilot suggested AI-assisted training could raise efficiency by "almost 35%". "It's like giving a student a calculator to do the math," says Bagdiya. "It is just supplementing what they are already doing and covering up for human inefficiencies."

The workers were initially worried about getting replaced, but the company showed them videos explaining how it was meant to improve workflow and quality checks, not edge them out. "Then they embraced it and felt proud about being part of this exercise."

Despite the irony of a textile factory built on touch and craftsmanship now helping software study those things for machine replication, Bagdiya does not believe humanoids are taking over apparel manufacturing anytime soon. "Unlike warehouse jobs, here after 5,000 pieces, the fashion, colour, products change," he says. "It's a complexity which humanoids can't take over in a hurry."

Ostronaut's Singh still worries that India occupies a vulnerable position. "This whole space right now is a Wild West... A lot of these recordings are fundamentally not happening for India but other countries," says Singh. "The most advanced robotics work right now is happening in China, Japan and the US."

The white towel, no VIP will throw in

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Actor Vijay took on the role of chief minister on May 10 and four days later shed his towel (the one on his chair) at the request of a climate activist as a sign of change. If anyone thought the gesture would start a trend in govt offices, you'd be mistaken.

Down the corridors of power in Shastri Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan are rooms occupied by very important people. But often, the civil servant himself or herself may not be able to indicate their importance in the "steel frame" of the country's governance structure. It is in times like that the white Turkish towel draped neatly on the chair helps point the petitioner in the right direction.

The towel is like the shiny brass nameplate on the table, car flags (since beacon lights are banned), escort vehicles and sundry staff...that may not be essential but crucial to power play. Imagine being cast English August-like in some district as a civil service probationary officer with only the circuit house, dak bungalow and a dozen servants for comfort. It is then that the towel helps complete the picture of authority.

Its origins are unclear but some trace the custom to the British. Former bureaucrat and Congress leader Gurdeep Singh Sappal recently posted on X, "Officers toured on horses, and towels were an integral part of hygiene routine. The British left, horses were sent away, but the towels stayed!"

"It's not just towels, the size of tables and colour of ink are also defined by hierarchy," Sappal added. Former chief information commissioner Wajahat Habibullah differs, adding that he notices more towelled car seats and chairs now, than in his time. His office told him it was a "lucky charm", and he let the matter rest. "I heard that it is to prevent sweat from staining the leather seats, but is everyone really working so hard? As for oily hair, that was never my problem. I had little oil and even less hair," he says.

Former cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar calls the practice "ridiculous" but concedes that officials and politicians cling to their towels even in proudly egalitarian Kerala. "Nothing says 'here sits an important man' like a be-toweled chair. They should get themselves a crown," remarks another former bureaucrat.

Ex-chief election commissioner SY Quraishi recalls that in 2006, sports minister Mani Shankar Aiyar walked into a conference room, saw his chair draped with a white towel and promptly flew into a rage. "Throw this out, this is not a bathroom," he ordered.

The towel has sometimes been at the centre of turf wars. Former chief economic adviser Kaushik Basu recounts one in his book 'Policymaker's Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.', an early battle fought by his staff for access to a "large, well-maintained bathroom" on the first floor of the finance ministry, reserved for govt secretaries. "This bathroom had three towel racks with three nicely laundered towels marked Finance Secretary, Revenue Secretary and Expenditure Secretary," he writes. Basu's staff insisted that he was entitled to the bathroom used by the senior-most officials.

"It was their pride that was being hurt. I told them flatly that I did not see myself, amidst discussion on inflation control and deficit management, slipping in a request to the finance minister that I be given access to the special first floor bathroom," he writes. His staff, however, waged a successful campaign on his behalf. "Indeed, I was pleasantly surprised to see a fourth rack with a fresh towel marked CEA (Chief Economic Adviser)."

COVER STORY: TN CM Vijay has stopped draping a towel over his chair

Ex-bureaucrat Habibullah was told the towel was a lucky charm. "I heard that it is to prevent sweat from staining the seats, but is everyone really working so hard? As for oily hair, that was never my problem. I had little oil and even less hair"

The battle for terry-torial supremacy escalated in 2024 when Uttar Pradesh's chief secretary had to convene an emergency meeting after legislators complained of "highly objectionable" insubordination where officials were seated on toweled chairs while the MLAs were not.

If the whiteness of the Turkish towel is about the display of bureaucratic prowess, its coloured version has strong political undertones. UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath prefers orange towels on his chairs while Telangana politician K Chandrashekhar Rao likes pink ones. Either way, in this case, colour outranks the whites in the room.

Govts may come and govts may go, but for a piece of cloth never mentioned in any protocol or handbook, the towel has been harder to dislodge than many ministers.

INQUIZITIVE

JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 In the name of Indian musical maestro and Bharat Ratna awardee MS Subbulakshmi, which city's name is represented by the letter 'M?'

2 According to a recent OTT series , what did JRD Tata stop wearing in the early eighties until one of his group's firms manufactured a world class Indian version?

3 _____ Maree Stoermer Coleman of African-American, Nigerian, German and Scottish ancestry is a film

and television star, known for her work in the series Euphoria and in Marvel Cinematic Universe films. What is her first name, by which she is universally known?

4 According to a popular nursery rhyme, what did all the king's horses and all the king's men try and put together?

5 Which Indian state's capital literally means a 'fort of bricks,' named after a fort built in the 15th century by a king of the Jitari dynasty?

6 Which city was chosen by France as the annual location for a famous international festival in 1939 after dictator Benito Mussolini did not allow 'La Grande Illusion' to win an award in a similar festival in 1937?

7 In 2026, who won his first Grammy award at the age of 90 in the category of Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording?

8 Which 41 year old, who died of cyanide poisoning from ingesting a poisoned apple, has an AI law named after him and also features in the British 50 pound note?

9 Mythology. Who took the name Granthika and spent a year as the Master of Horses in the Matsya kingdom?

10 In the 2026 FIFA World Cup, if the South Korean team are nicknamed the 'Tigers of Asia,' which other Asian team has the lion in its nickname?

ANSWERS

1 | Madurai
2 | A watch, the start of Titan Industries
3 | Zendaya
4 | Humpty Dumpty, after his fall
5 | Arunachal Pradesh(Itanagar)
6 | Cannes, the award was denied by the Mesopotamia
7 | The Dalai Lama, in a collaboration with Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Aman and Ayaan
8 | Alan Turing
9 | Nakula, who was the most skilled with horses among the Pandavas
10 | Iraq, the Lions of Venice Film Festival

The good mud guide to a calmer mind

For people living with ADHD, autism or navigating burnout, pottery is becoming an outlet that helps them find focus and emotional release

Joeanna.Fernandes@timesofindia.com

Among the diverse tools of the trade spread across the warehouses and workshops at Ghanshyam Industrial Estate in Mumbai's Andheri, the most improbable are the eye masks.

Every other weekend, these are distributed to a roomful of people, who slip them on and, in silence, work balls of clay on a community table. For 12 minutes, with monkish labour, they mould them into objects. Only when the masks come off is the art examined.

"People are usually amazed at what they create," says Yash Makwana, ceramic artist and curator of Clay in the Dark, a two-and-a-half-hour experience at his Mumbai pottery studio. "In the dark, people become highly attuned to the thickness, shape and form of their object—they see with their fingers. What they can't see is their neighbour's work. And because they can't compare, they focus more on the process, not the outcome."

At his workshop, hand-building (shaping clay using hands) becomes a medium of creative and emotional expression. "Think about the last time you were frustrated; now put all your energy into that lump and slam it to the ground," Makwana urges during wedging, when participants crowd around a plastic sheet on the floor, hurling fistfuls of frustration into a mound of clay. "The clay makes the mental and emotional tangible. Giving your stress a form makes it easier to release."

FEAT OF CLAY

Clay is emerging as an unlikely therapeutic medium. Shaped directly by hand, its tactile, repetitive rhythms can lower cortisol levels, elevate mood and ground a person in the present. There is also the pride of having made something with one's own hands.

Photo: Aditya Walku

> Lifting heavy slabs, rolling, wedging and pinching clay helped my son release a lot of that energy, which was previously directed at us, his parents. It also improved his hand-eye coordination. Now, I also do it for myself. It relaxes me
>
> **Rajani Satheesh,** MOTHER OF 19-YEAR-OLD ADARSH (IN GREEN T-SHIRT)

Drawn by these returns, many are turning to pottery, what some call 'yoga for the hands'. Some, like Aditya Jaspal, are even referred to it by therapists. "She recommended that I find creative outlets for my anxiety and depression. I started with painting, and then found clay," says the 26-year-old, who was recently diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or ADHD. "I immediately took to the wheel and found that I was good at it."

Over a year-and-a-half at Clay Therapy in Delhi, pottery helped him loosen the perfectionism his anxiety had fed. Yet he struggled with one stage of wheel throwing. "I almost gave up trying to figure out how much pressure to apply and how close you could go to breaking point without having it collapse." Vani Pardal pulled him back. The founder of Clay Therapy kept reminding him to enjoy the process and detach from the product. "Later, even when pieces broke on firing, it wouldn't bother me much," Jaspal says.

Pardal, a researcher in psychology, opened Clay Therapy three years ago after discovering the grounding nature of working with clay. She is careful, however, to draw a line. "There's a stark difference between formally trained potters and art therapists."

Yet people with mental health conditions and neurodivergent diagnoses continue to seek her out. "Some disclose their condition, others don't. We don't ask," says Pardal. Instead, her team observes how students respond and adapts classes accordingly.

Clay Therapy also works with patients from Sukoon Healthcare, which earlier this year began including clay work in its occupational therapy programme. "We're not providing therapy," says Pardal, "but pottery can offer a structured creative practice, and a sense of accomplishment. Our role is to teach the craft."

HEAL GOOD FACTOR

In Pune, Kshitija Mitter has been teaching pottery for more than two years to two autistic students, aged 14 and 19. "Repetitive work, like coiling and pinching, works well for them. One needs to understand their individual pace and ability," says Mitter.

After each session, she asks if they like the pieces they've made. They're free to break the ones they don't. She says her sessions benefit caregivers too, because it gives them a breather. Rajani Satheesh practises alongside her 19-year-old son. "I started learning pottery to assist Adarsh; one day I'd like to open a studio for him," she says. "Now, I also do it for myself. It relaxes me."

Mother and son travel 30km each way for weekly classes, where Adarsh has progressed enough to work independently. He can throw bowls and pots on the wheel and make animal figurines by hand. "He earned Rs 2,000 in sales at a Christmas fair," says Satheesh.

Working with clay, Satheesh discovered, also helped regulate certain stimming behaviour, such as pinching. "Lifting heavy slabs, rolling, wedging and pinching clay helped release a lot of that energy, which was previously directed at us, his parents," says Satheesh. She also noticed improvements in his hand-eye coordination. Research backs her observations: clay's tactile qualities can stimulate multiple cortical regions and help develop fine and gross motor skills.

CRAFT, CURE OR BOTH?

While the therapeutic rewards of clay work are drawing more hands to the wheel, people should use it as an adjunct to core clinical treatment in cases of neurodivergence, trauma and mental illness, and not the treatment itself, cautions Dr Jatin Tarwani, clinical lead, addiction services at Sukoon. At the psychiatry centre, medically stabilised patients with conditions including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety and addiction work with clay as an occupational therapy.

Pottery, says Dr Tarwani, is introduced as a healthy substitute for addictive substances and harmful behaviour, and as a nonverbal way to express and regulate emotions. "When practised regularly for, say, a year, it can rewire the brain and teach people a new way to cope with difficulties."

However, clay work is cut from a different mould than art therapy, points out Anshuma Kshetrapal, founder of Colors of Grey Cells, a mental health practice in Delhi.

"All arts have inherent therapeutic value that make you feel good. But feeling good is not therapy," says Kshetrapal. She has seen clients mistake catharsis for art therapy. Yet, she sees value in both art and art therapy and has recommended arts courses to patients herself. "At our practice, clay is one of several mediums used to tap into a person's subconscious and help their journey. We're not looking to build skill."

HANDS-ON BENEFITS

- Quiets mental chatter through repetitive, rhythmic movement
- Reduces stress and lowers cortisol level
- Sharpens focus by keeping attention in the present
- Builds motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- Creates space for self-expression and creativity

Hormuz to open? Trump says he'll sign deal with Iran today

Mediator Pak Says Electronic Signing Ceremony Scheduled

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said a deal to end the war with Iran would be signed on Sunday and that the strategic Strait of Hormuz would be "open to all" immediately afterwards. Trump's comments came hours after Pakistan indicated that the United States and Iran were in the final stage of negotiations and that an electronic signing ceremony for the agreement was scheduled for Sunday. However, there is no immediate comment from Iran on the reported timeline.

"The Deal is scheduled to get signed tomorrow, and immediately after it is signed, the Hormuz Strait is OPEN TO ALL," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, signalling what could be a major diplomatic breakthrough after months of negotiations.

The US president also contrasted the proposed agreement with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiated under former US president Barack Obama. "Barack Hussein Obama's Deal with Iran, the JCPOA, was an easy, beautiful, smooth road to a Nuclear Weapon, which Iran would have had six years ago, and would have used long before now.

"My Agreement with Iran is the exact opposite, A WALL TO NO NUCLEAR WEAPON! In fact, they no longer want a Nuclear Weapon, nor will they have one, either through purchase, development, or any other form of procurement," he said.

Trump further claimed that Iran's nuclear programme had been effectively neutralised and said the remaining nuclear material would be disposed of at a later stage.

"At the appropriate time, when all is calm, we will go in and get the Nuclear Dust, buried deep under the powerful sunken granite mountains, thanks to our beautiful B-2 Bombers and their brilliant pilots, and downblend and destroy it, whether in Iran, or the United States," he said.

Among other things, Tehran has insisted on its right to enrich uranium and maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, both of which appear to be sharply at odds with Washington's red lines. PTI

US deports Iranian pro-democracy activist to Central African Republic, says lawyer

Dakar: The US has deported an Iranian pro-democracy activist to Central African Republic, her lawyer said on Friday, describing it as a "super dangerous" transfer to a country with which the activist has no connection. The Iranian American Legal Defense Fund (IALDF) said on Thursday that three Iranian women who fled persecution were at risk of deportation, including one who had converted to Christianity. In the end, only the activist was on the flight which took off from Louisiana on Thursday night, said her lawyer. The plane landed in Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic, shortly before 10 pm local time, according to the ICE Flight Monitor managed by Human Rights First. The IALDF said the Iranians facing deportation had their asylum claims denied due to a rule requiring that asylum seekers first apply in countries they transit through before reaching the US. REUTERS

Iran state media: Khamenei's burial on July 9

Dubai: The funeral for Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will begin in Tehran on July 4 and conclude with his burial in his hometown, the northeastern holy city of Mashhad, on July 9, state media reported on Saturday.

Khamenei was killed on the first day of Israeli and US airstrikes against Iran on Feb 28. The 86-year-old cleric had been at the helm of the Islamic Republic for 36 years.

The funeral arrangements will include ceremonies on July 7 in the holy city of Qom, south of Tehran, media said.

Islamic law requires the deceased to be buried as soon as possible, and ideally within 24 hours of death, but exceptions are allowed, for example, in time of war. During his rule, Khamenei built Iran into a powerful anti-US force, spreading its military sway across the West Asia through proxy forces such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, while using an iron fist to crush outbreaks of unrest at home.

Khamenei remained a strong critic of the United States throughout his rule, while successive US administrations tried unsuccessfully to resolve a dispute with Iran over its nuclear programme. REUTERS

Anthropic: US govt move due to misunderstanding

▶ Continued from page 1

Anthropic, like most tech firms, employs many foreign nationals, including Indians. "The net effect of this order is that we must abruptly disable Fable 5 and Mythos 5 for all our customers to ensure compliance," Anthropic said, insisting it believed the govt's action stemmed from a "misunderstanding", and expressing hope that access would be restored.

The episode marks a dramatic escalation in Washington's efforts to treat cutting-edge AI capabilities much like advanced semiconductors — technologies whose distribution is controlled because of their potential military value.

At the centre of the controversy is Mythos 5, a powerful cybersecurity-focused model that Anthropic had previously restricted to a select group of trusted organisations, including some in India, through an initiative known as Project Glasswing. The model was designed to identify software vulnerabilities at a scale and speed beyond most human researchers, potentially helping govts and companies defend themselves against cyberattacks. But the same capability that can patch vulnerabilities can also help identify ways to exploit them.

India's inclusion in Project Glasswing, announced just two weeks ago, was an unusually significant gesture given that New Delhi is not a formal US treaty ally. It was the only major non-aligned power included in a group of 15, including Japan, Australia, Germany, Canada and South Korea. The decision was widely interpreted as recognition of India's vast software talent pool and growing strategic importance in the AI race.

That access now appears uncertain, reminding New Delhi of the risks of relying on foreign-controlled AI infrastructure, and intensifying calls for "sovereign AI".

The US govt order also has an ironic twist: it affects some of the very people helping build these systems. Anthropic employs a significant number of Indian-origin engineers and researchers, including chief technology officer Rahul Patil, formerly the CTO of Stripe.

The company also maintains operations in Bengaluru as part of its broader international expansion.

Under the directive's interpretation of "foreign nationals", non-US citizens within Anthropic itself could potentially lose access to the models they helped develop.

Anthropic has pushed back forcefully against the govt's action, arguing that the alleged security concerns surrounding Mythos involve narrow "jailbreak" scenarios and capabilities that comparable public models already possess. Company officials warn that if such findings become grounds for export restrictions, no frontier AI model may remain widely accessible.

Other AI companies are watching closely. Executives across the industry fear the emergence of a fragmented AI ecosystem in which nationality determines access to the most capable systems. The concern extends beyond China, the traditional focus of US technology controls, to close American partners in Europe, Japan, Australia, and India. Analysts say the longer-term consequence could be the creation of a two-tier AI world: top-tier models reserved for Americans, while everyone else receives less capable versions or loses access altogether.

Paradoxically, such restrictions could strengthen the hand of China, which, ironically for a so-called communist country, has offered open source access to its models. Beijing has invested heavily in indigenous AI development precisely to avoid strategic dependence on foreign technology. If American firms become unreliable suppliers of frontier AI, countries seeking technological independence may increasingly turn to Chinese open-source models or accelerate domestic alternatives.

For ordinary users, the immediate disruption may be limited. Anthropic says access to its other models remains unaffected, while competing offerings from OpenAI and Google continue to operate normally.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy raised concerns about Anthropic AI models, says report

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy was among tech leaders who raised concerns to senior Trump administration officials this week about security risks in Anthropic's most advanced AI models, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters. Amazon did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Tech publication 'Information' too has reported the matter. REUTERS

Venezuela-US joint op kills top narco-terrorist

The leader of the transnational gang Tren de Aragua has been killed in southern Venezuela as part of a joint operation with the United States, in what a top Pentagon official on Saturday described as a warning to "narco-terrorists" in Latin America.

Hector Rusthenford Guerrero Flores, alias 'Nino Guerrero,' was "neutralised" in southeastern Bolivar state, Venezuela's ministry of communications said in a statement Friday. US President Donald Trump said Guerrero was killed in "a swift and lethal kinetic strike" by US forces, in an attack "coordinated closely with our friends in Venezuela."

Founded in Venezuela, Tren de Aragua has been designated a terrorist organisation by the United States and is also active in Colombia, Peru and Chile. Federal prosecutors in New York filed racketeering, drug and firearms charges against the gang leader in Dec.

"Guerrero Flores has been the mastermind of Tren de Aragua's evolution from a Venezuelan prison gang into a transnational terrorist organization," US attorney Jay Clayton had said. The US had offered a $5 million reward for information leading to his arrest or conviction. AFP

TRUMP'S NAME SCRUBBED OFF KENNEDY CENTER AS WH GEARS FOR SUNDAY GRAPPLE

Getty Images via AFP, Reuters

WIN SOME, LOSE SOME: Workers remove President Donald Trump's name from the facade of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, after a federal judge ruled that its renaming was unlawful. The effort came after a judge rejected a last-minute bid by the Center's board to halt the removal of Trump's name. (Right) Ciryl Gane during the official weigh-in for UFC Freedom 250 at JW Marriott in Washington, Saturday. Trump will celebrate becoming an octogenarian as he hosts an extravagant, $60 million Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) showcase on the White House South Lawn Sunday night

UAE to unlock billions of dollars for Iran

Dubai/London: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to unlock billions of dollars for Iran, four sources said, in a tactical shift after weeks of Iranian attacks on the wealthy Gulf Arab state during the US-Israeli war with the Islamic Republic.

Word of the move by the UAE to seek de-escalation and which has not been previously reported, coincides with the final stages of broader negotiations between Tehran and Washington on ending the war, talks that diplomats say could involve the release of tens of billions of dollars in Iranian oil revenues frozen in foreign banks under US sanctions.

In the past month, the UAE, which was heavily targeted by Iran at the height of the war, has been spared fresh strikes, while Iran has trained its missiles and drones on Kuwait and Bahrain. The last known direct attack by Iran on the UAE was more than a month ago. Two regional sources told Reuters the UAE had agreed to release a total of $10 billion, more than $3 billion of which had already been delivered. REUTERS

21 terrorists killed in Pak's Khyber region

Peshawar: Security forces killed 21 terrorists in a series of operations in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan over the past three days, the military's media wing said Saturday.

Among those killed in North Waziristan district over the last 72 hours were four ring leaders belonging to Fitna-al-Khwarij, wanted for their involvement in numerous terrorist activities, including killing of security forces' personnel and innocent civilians, the media wing said.

Fitna-al-Khawarij is a term that the state uses for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from those killed, it said. Sanitisation operations would continue to eliminate remaining holed up terrorists in the area, it added. PTI

Will retaliate, warns China as Pentagon targets its top tech cos

Beijing: China is "strongly dissatisfied" with a US move to add several large Chinese companies to the Pentagon's list of firms it says are aiding China's military, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. If Chinese firms are not treated fairly, it said, Beijing will "inevitably retaliate resolutely".

The foreign ministry has also expressed concern about the US defense department's long-awaited update to its list on Monday, which included such top technology names as e-commerce giant Alibaba, internet search provider Baidu and automakers BYD and NIO. The list also includes the world's largest solar panel makers: Trina Solar and JA Solar Technology.

The list includes a broad swathe of China's top technology firms key to advancing Beijing's military and industrial prowess, reflecting US's security concerns.

The Pentagon update supersedes a list from early 2025 and comes a month after Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met in Beijing and maintained a delicate trade-war truce. The ministry statement said the Pentagon's move "ignored the consensus" reached between the two leaders.

Under US law, the defense department will be prohibited from contracting directly with companies on the list and restricted from buying their products or services through third parties from 2027. REUTERS

Indian man gets 34-yr jail term in UK for kidnap, torture & rape

Naomi Canton

London: An Indian man living in the UK has been jailed for 34 years for kidnapping, raping, torturing and beating up a woman after she refused to carry a suitcase of "unknown items" from Thailand to the UK.

Gagandeep Singh (34), an Indian citizen living in Wandsworth, southwest London, was on Friday jailed on two counts of rape, false imprisonment, causing grievous bodily harm with intent, and kidnap.

He was convicted following a jury trial at Isleworth Crown Court in Feb.

The court heard how the victim — a 24-year-old woman — became suspicious when she was asked to deliver the suitcase from Thailand back to the UK in June 2024. She refused, and when she arrived at Birmingham Airport she was put into a car and driven to London by masked men.

She was taken to a house in Hanwell, west London, where she was subjected to prolonged torture, including by Singh, who also raped her on two occasions, the court was told.

After being subjected to more than a day of torture, including being punched in the face, stripped, whipped, burnt and raped, the woman was released by her captors.

She was threatened and warned not to tell anyone what had happened. But she told her mother who contacted police and made an initial third-party report. Six weeks later, the woman felt able to give police a full account of what happened. The clothing she had been wearing when she was kidnapped had been kept aside at her home. This was submitted for forensic examination and it revealed a one-in-a-million positive DNA match for Singh, who at the time was in prison on remand for an unrelated offence.

Singh will be deported with no right of re-entry after serving his sentence.

7 Indians held in crackdown on illegal work at UK parcel depots

Naomi Canton

London: Seven Indian nationals working for international parcel delivery company DPD in the UK are among nine suspected illegal workers arrested by immigration enforcement officers at multiple parcel delivery depots.

Immigration enforcement officers raided DPD depots in Basingstoke, Hampshire and Newbury, Berkshire early Thursday morning and conducted right to work checks on over 100 individuals.

Seven Indian nationals, one Ghanaian national and one Pakistani national were identified as immigration offenders. One Indian national was arrested at DPD Newbury and six Indian nationals were arrested at DPD Basingstoke. All have been placed on immigration bail, subject to strict conditions, while further inquiries take place. If they are found to have been working unlawfully, they will be removed from the UK.

The home office said: "Work will now begin to establish who the liable party is for employing the individuals. An employer in breach of the law can receive a fine of up to £60,000 (Rs 76 lakh) per worker." Since coming to power in July 2024, Labour has increased illegal working enforcement activity to the highest level in British history, with an 83% rise in arrests and 77% increase in raids across the UK.

Govt have also removed nearly 70,000 people with no right to work in Britain since taking office.

The home office said the operation was part of the home secretary's sweeping reforms to scale up removals and to remove incentives drawing illegal migrants to Britain.

DPD said it had assisted in the removal of "a small number of people" from their depots. "We have robust checking processes in place, and we will be reviewing them as well as those of relevant third-party recruitment agencies and suppliers," DPD said.

AFP

LIVE & LET LIVE: People take part in an anti-racism rally after counter-protesters were removed, in Glasgow, Scotland, Saturday

Gold rush sends some vintage luxe watches to melting furnace

London: Omega's Constellation watch has been flashed in campaigns, movies and at the Met Gala by stars like George Clooney and Nicole Kidman, turning it into a symbol of luxury and glamour. But with gold prices near record highs, some such classic watches are being melted down as the value of their metal content outstrips their resale worth.

Used models by the likes of Omega and LVMH's TAG Heuer are most hit by the trend, say over a dozen traders, industry experts, and investment advisers.

British dealer Jon White of Gold Traders melted down an 18-carat late-1970s Constellation in excellent condition in May, one of dozens of mainstream luxury watches he has had scrapped this year as demand for investment gold has risen. "Had the customer consigned that to auction, what would they have achieved?" asked White, who also runs an auction house. The gold content of the Constellation watch, one of many models produced by Omega, was worth £5,750 ($7,749), 35% more than its estimated £4,000-4,500 auction value.

James Lamdin, founder of Watches of Switzerland's second-hand unit Analog Shift, said melting is "primarily happening with contemporary pre-owned and older vintage watches that are not collectible yet." REUTERS

WORLD DIGEST

AP

KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE: Britain's prince William and wife Kate, and their children Charlotte, George and Louis wave from the balcony of Buckingham Palace during Trooping The Colour, the king's annual birthday parade, in London, Saturday. Trooping the Colour, the British monarch's official birthday parade, has marked the sovereign's official birthday since 1748 and is usually held in June. The actual birthday of current British king Charles III is on Nov 14

Six jailed for theft of rare Russian books in France

Six Georgians have been sentenced to up to seven years' jail in France over the theft of rare editions of Russian literary classics, including by 19th-century luminary Alexander Pushkin, from prestigious French libraries. The trial is the latest case seeking justice for a spate of similar heists in recent years from libraries across Europe, suspected to be the work of an organised network with potential links to Russia. The thieves made away with rare Russian classics worth millions in total. The six defendants — five men and a woman — were all found guilty overnight Friday to Saturday of criminal conspiracy with intent to commit an offence, while some were rapped for the theft of a cultural asset on display.

2 new sex abuse plaints against French star Bruel

Two women have filed new complaints of sexual abuse against French pop icon Patrick Bruel, prosecutors and their lawyer said Saturday, in the latest accusations against the singer under investigation. The 67-year-old, a major figure in French popular culture with several top-selling albums and dozens of film appearances, denies any wrongdoing.

US attorneys general open probe into OpenAI

A coalition of US state attorneys general has opened an investigation into OpenAI, serving the ChatGPT maker on Friday with a subpoena seeking documents related to a wide range of its activities and the impact on users, including advertising and the handling of consumer and health data. The subpoena was sent by New York's attorney general.

Russians skirt digital iron curtain with 2 phones & an app

Moscow: In a quiet cafe popular for its free WiFi and good coffee, a Russian interior designer logs onto a virtual private network (VPN) so she can chat with friends abroad using the US messaging service WhatsApp, which is blocked inside Russia.

Later, she toggles off the VPN to buy a ticket on the Russian Railways website, which bars anyone using the tools to obscure their location. She then picks up a second phone to check for messages from clients on the state-controlled app MAX. Since the Kremlin ratcheted up control over the internet this year, Russians have been turning to increasingly convoluted technical solutions to circumvent state monitoring and restrictions on popular foreign apps like Meta Platforms' WhatsApp and the Telegram messenger. The biggest crackdown of its kind under President Vladimir Putin has at times disrupted banking, transport and e-commerce, irritating people ahead of a Sept parliamentary election, according to statements from Kremlin-friendly opposition parties, prominent bloggers and business leaders. Even some social media influencers, who usually stay clear of politics, criticised the restrictions. Frustration over the curbs — together with rising prices, tax hikes and war fatigue — is widely believed to have contributed to Putin's falling approval ratings, which dropped from 75.1% in Feb to 65.6% in April, according to state pollster VTsIOM. They now stand at nearly 67%.

Reuters

The Russian messaging app MAX installed on a smartphone. Russians are being asked to use state-backed alternatives to foreign apps and websites in a drive for "digital sovereignty"

Officials have been pushing Russians to use state-backed alternatives to foreign apps and websites in a drive for "digital sovereignty". But some users are wary following warnings from Kremlin critics and Western tech companies that MAX could be used to track them, which technology giant VK, its owner, denies.

Quarantining the app on a second phone feels safer, said Irina, the 41-year-old interior designer. "You get used to it and spend your days turning VPNs on and off, toggling between different messengers." VPNs work by routing a user's internet connection through private servers outside Russia. In March alone, there were 9.2 million downloads of the five most popular VPN services from the Google Play store, 14 times more than the same month last year, the Russian daily newspaper Kommersant reported, citing data from Digital Budget, a Moscow-based consultancy.

"We've never seen this kind of take-up rate before," said Sarkis Darbinyan, a Russian internet freedom activist based in Lisbon.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said repeatedly that internet controls are necessary when Russia is locked in what officials cast as an existential clash with the West over Ukraine. But Putin instructed the govt in April to tread more softly. REUTERS

AGAINST THE GERMAN WALL

With Population Of 1.58 Lakh, Former Dutch Colony Curacao To Face Four-Time Champions

Boston (Massachusetts): Germany will look to start their World Cup campaign with a big win over Curacao, with the four-time champions out to repair their damaged international reputation following first-round exits in the previous two editions. The Germans, who won the 2014 edition, have set their sights on a fifth world title even though they do not see themselves as among the favourites this year.

They could not have hoped for easier first opponents than minnows Curacao, the smallest nation to qualify for the World Cup. Ecuador and Ivory Coast complete Group E. Julian Nagelsmann's Germany are on a nine-match winning run, including a 4-0 victory over Finland in their last friendly at home on May 31 and a 2-1 win over World Cup co-hosts the United States six days ago. Curacao are rank outsiders, with most of their players plying their trade in the Netherlands or in lower European leagues.

But veteran coach Dick Advocaat, who at 78 will become the oldest coach in World Cup history, relishes facing Germany in their tournament start. "Germany are of course clear favourites in the group," Advocaat said. "They are still a big footballing country. Starting off against Germany is fantastic. We will find out immediately where we stand."

Advocaat knows there is a massive gap in quality, which Germany, with world-class players like Kai Havertz, Florian Wirtz and Manuel Neuer, want to take advantage of to get their tournament off to a winning start. "We aren't among the absolute top favourites — there are three or four others," said Germany national team director Rudi Voeller, a 1990 World Cup winner with Germany.

GERMANY VS CURACAO
10:30 pm (Sun) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Germany and Curaçao have never played each other before at the international level. In fact, Curaçao have qualified for the World Cup for the first time.

"But we know how important an opening win is. We are here and want to be a team that is difficult to beat. We want to top our group and then assert ourselves in the knockout stage."

Any result other than victory could prove tricky in the group while also instantly piling pressure on the Germans, with fans back home desperate to see their team return to winning ways after their last two early exits.

"The two wins from our last two friendlies give us a good feeling and we want to maintain that here," Voeller said. "There is no guarantee if you win the first game that is the way the tournament will go for you. We have to go through the group as the top team, there is no discussion about that, it's our goal." REUTERS

Reuters

FINAL FORTRESS: Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer trains ahead of Germany's opening match against Curacao

ALSO AT FOOTBALL'S HIGH TABLE...

Four small 'powerhouses' will make their World Cup debuts, starting with Curacao on Sunday. Joining the Caribbean nation are Cape Verde, Jordan and Uzbekistan, proving that football's biggest stage is becoming more global than ever...

CAPE VERDE	CURAÇAO	JORDAN	UZBEKISTAN
Population: **600,000**	**Population: 158,000**	Population: **11.6m**	Population: **38.2m**
GDP: **$5.717 billion**	GDP: **$3.5 billion**	GDP: **$64.9 billion**	GDP: **$181.5 billion**
FIFA ranking: **69**	FIFA ranking: **82**	FIFA ranking: **63**	FIFA ranking: **50**
Captain: **Ryan Mendes**	Captain: **Leandro Bacuna**	Captain: **Ehsan Haddad**	Captain: **Eldor Shomurodov**
Coach: **Pedro Brito**	Coach: **Dick Advocaat**	Coach: **Jamal Sellami**	Coach: **Fabio Cannavaro**
Qualified: 1st in CAF Group D	**Qualified:** Unbeaten winners of CONCACAF Group B	**Qualified:** AFC automatic berth	**Qualified:** Finished second in AFC third-round Group A
World Cup Group H: Spain, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia	**World Cup Group E:** Germany, Ivory Coast, Ecuador	**World Cup Group J:** Argentina, Austria, Algeria	**World Cup Group K:** Portugal, Colombia, DR Congo

Getty Images

Endo's retirement leaves Japan with midfield puzzle before Dutch clash

Dallas: Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu must decide who will replace retired captain Wataru Endo at the heart of his midfield as they prepare to kick off their World Cup campaign against the Netherlands in Dallas on Sunday.

Endo had been expected to feature in the Group F clash but a foot injury that has plagued him this year forced his withdrawal from the squad and prompted the 33-year-old midfielder to announce his international retirement.

He had formed a midfield partnership with Ao Tanaka in Japan's most recent friendly against Iceland but Moriyasu's confidence in his options was reflected in his decision to replace Endo with forward Shuto Machino. Tanaka could be paired with Germany-based Kaishu Sano or Daichi Kamada. "I was surprised to hear about Endo's departure," said Japan playmaker Takefusa Kubo.

Netherlands boss Ronald Koeman has concerns of his own with goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen recovering from a knock sustained in a 2-1 friendly win over Uzbekistan while forward Memphis Depay has played little over the last three months.

The game at Dallas Stadium will be the first between the nations since a 2-2 draw in a friendly in 2013 and the Dutch registered a 1-0 win over the Japanese at their only previous World Cup meeting in South Africa in 2010. REUTERS

JAPAN VS NETHERLANDS
1:30 am (Mon) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

REUTERS

CENTRAL CAST: Netherlands' Virgil van Dijk (right) and Tijjani Reijnders (left) with teammates during training on Saturday

Ecuador's defence to be tested by Ivory Coast

Philadelphia: Ecuador's miserly defence will be put to the test in their World Cup Group E opener against the Ivory Coast on Sunday at the Philadelphia Stadium, where the South Americans will look to stretch their unbeaten run to 20 matches. Ecuador's last defeat came against Brazil in Curitiba in September 2024 in the early stages of World Cup qualifying, and they have conceded only six goals during that run, five of them in friendlies.

They finished second in South American qualifying to book a World Cup berth for a fifth time, all since their 2002 debut. The Ivorians were even stingier in defence as they completed their 10 qualifiers without conceding a single goal, but the quality of opposition they faced was weaker than the teams Ecuador had to play against.

Since securing a spot at the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the US, the African side have impressed with comfortable warm-up wins over South Korea and Scotland in March and a 2-1 triumph away against France in Nantes last week. The Ivorian forward line, with teenager Yan Diomande leading the line and support coming from Simon Adingra and Amad Diallo on the flanks, is expected to test Ecuador's steely defence.

ECUADOR VS IVORY COAST
04:30 am (Mon) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

With Germany the favourites in their group, this match could be the one to settle second place, though both Ecuador and the Ivory Coast have loftier ambitions. Ecuador have only once previously advanced out of the group phase, while the Ivorians, returning to the World Cup for the first time since 2014, have never reached the knockout stages. REUTERS

Ronaldo wants Portugal focused on good start

New York: Portugal traveled to the U.S. with Cristiano Ronaldo saying the team needs to focus on getting off to a good start instead of thinking ahead about contending for its first World Cup title.

The Portuguese are among the favorites at the expanded 48-team tournament and the 41-year-old Ronaldo will be playing in his sixth World Cup, the most ever alongside Lionel Messi of Argentina.

"It is important to get off to a good start, do well in the first and second matches and then finish first in the group," Ronaldo told reporters in Portugal before the team's departure. "Then we go match by match, but not with the expectations of winning it all. It has to be step by step. A good start is the most important thing."

Portugal will play its opening Group K match against Congo on Wednesday in Houston. The team then faces Uzbekistan on June 23, again in Houston, and finishes the group stage against Colombia on June 27 in Miami.

Ronaldo said it will be further in the tournament, "when things get tighter and the psychological and physical fatigue" come into play, "that we will know who the real champions are."

This is Portugal's ninth World Cup appearance. The team finished third in 1966 and fourth in 2006 - when Ronaldo made his World Cup debut. In 2022, Portugal reached the quarterfinals but was upset by Morocco 1-0.

Ronaldo, who won the European Championship with Portugal in 2016, said the team's preparation at home was intense and productive. He said he is feeling well physically and the whole squad is ready and hopeful ahead of its quest for a first World Cup title. "It's a very good generation of players," said Ronaldo, who now plays in Saudi Arabia after spending most of professional career with Real Madrid and Manchester United. "But there are factors that we can't control. Winning or losing, which is the most important thing, depends on many factors. But it's a generation that will make the Portuguese people happy." AGENCIES

FOOTBALL ROYALTY: Cristiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva arrive at Palm Beach International Airport in Florida on Saturday

The 2026 edition will see Ronaldo make his sixth FIFA World Cup appearance — a record he will share with Argentina's Lionel Messi and Mexico's Guillermo Ochoa.

SNAP SHOTS

RUSSELL ON POLE

George Russell continued Mercedes' run of pole positions on Saturday, with Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton joining his fellow Briton on the front row for the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix. Championship leader Kimi Antonelli qualified third.

Sindhu bows out in semis: PV Sindhu bowed out in the semifinals of the Australian Badminton Open losing 20-22, 12-21 to top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in Sydney on Saturday.

Lakshya, Ayush for Asiad: PV Sindhu and reigning men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will headline the Indian badminton squad at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

Squad: Team Championship: Men: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth, Tharun Mannepalli, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan, MR Arjun, Dhruv Kapila. **Women:** PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda, Devika Sihag, Tanvi Sharma, Isharani Baruah, Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand Pullela, Kavipriya Selvam, Simran Singhi, Tanisha Crasto.

Sandhu at T-25: Ajeetesh Sandhu carded a 3-under 70 to be in tied for 25th place in the International Series Morocco golf tournament in Rabat. Gaganjeet Bhullar (74) and Karandeep Kochhar, both at T-47 made the cut.

Shirse improves own NR: Tejas Shirse broke his own national record in men's 110m hurdles at the Indian Athletics Series 9 in Ludhiana on Saturday. The 24-year-old Shirse clocked 13.27 seconds.

Niki-Isaro win in Lyon: Niki Poonacha and his Thai partner Pruchya Isaro clinched the doubles title at the Open Sopra Steria de Lyon in France on Saturday. In the final, the fourth-seeded duo defeated Skander Mansouri and Maximilian Neuchrist 6-0, 6-1.

Babu shines: Dilli Babu scored a brace in Hindustan Friends Hockey Club's 2-1 win over Metro HC in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru. **Results:** Hindustan Friends HC 2 (Dilli Babu 34, 37) bt Metro HC 1 (Kabilan 15); Raichur DHA 2 (Babu Metkar 9, Dharmendra Pal 49) bt Karnataka Forest Department (KDF) 0. **Today's matches:** Raichur vs Metro (1.15 pm); Hindustan Friends vs KDF (3 pm).

Calm Gill lays down the marker

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Dharamshala: It's not easy to unnerve Shubman Gill when he is batting in an ODI. The moment he walks in, he seems to slip into a zone where he controls the innings almost by instinct. The runs on the board are merely a by-product of a process the Indian captain has mastered over the 62 ODIs he has played in.

With a composed unbeaten 66-ball 84 that guided India past a 195-run target by seven wickets, with 13 balls to spare, in the first ODI against Afghanistan here on Saturday, Gill's ODI ascent has gathered pace.

ODI SERIES

When India came out to chase after debutant pacer Gurnoor Brar had impressed with figures of 3/27 in the rain-shortened 25-overs-a-side affair, Gill appeared least bothered about old questions over his omission from India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign two years ago.

In a near-flawless knock, he neither tried to match Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz's exhilarating 51-ball 102 nor got drawn into a contest with Ishan Kishan's flamboyant 22-ball 34 during their 43-ball, 70-run second-wicket stand. Instead, Gill brought out his most assured game, calmly anchoring India's chase. He was opener and finisher on the night.

Gill knows he has a bigger job than merely re-establishing his white-ball credentials. He was made captain of the ODI team in somewhat contentious circumstances last Oct, with an eye on stabilising the side before the 2027 ODI World Cup in southern Africa, and with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli fighting an awkward battle to underline their continuing relevance. The first task for Gill is to calm an edgy dressing room and lead with the bat.

There was no familiar burst of emotion when KL Rahul hit the winning runs. Gill, who often lets out a roar on reaching a milestone or sealing a victory, simply took off his helmet and gloves and ambled back to the dressing room.

On the face of it, the Afghan attack had enough variety to be tricky. But chasing 195 at under eight runs an over on a true pitch in contemporary cricket should not have posed too many problems. Gill ensured it did not, even as Rohit and Shreyas Iyer had indifferent outings. This series marks the start of India's build-up towards the next ODI World Cup, which is a little over a year away. Gill also used the opener to test combinations, handing debuts to Brar and left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey.

Brief scores: India 195/3 in 22.5 overs (Shubman Gill 84n.o, Ishan Kishan 34, KL Rahul 39n.o) bt **Afghanistan 194 in 24.5 overs** (Gurbaz 102; Brar 3/27, Harsh Dubey 3/47).

AP

TOP KNOCK: Shubhman Gill

India begin T20 WC campaign vs Pak

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The cross-border cricket rivalry between India and Pakistan may have lost some of its unpredictability over the years, with India enjoying overwhelming success in ICC events, but Harmanpreet Kaur and her team know there is little room for complacency when they begin their ICC Women's T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan in Birmingham on Sunday.

India enter the Group 1 contest with a commanding 13-3 head-to-head record against the Fatima Sana-led side. But in a demanding pool that also features Australia and South Africa, the ODI world champions can ill afford an early misstep. A winning start could prove crucial in the race for a semifinal berth.

PREVIEW

The contrasting trajectories of the two sides underline India's status as favourites. Indian women's cricket has grown significantly in recent years, especially with the advent of the Women's Premier League and a more regular international calendar. Over the past year, India have featured in multiple bilateral assignments, giving them opportunities to test combinations and build depth. Pakistan, meanwhile, arrive with far less preparation.

Their T20 series against Zimbabwe last month was their only assignment in the format in more than two years before they travelled to Europe. Defeats to Scotland and Sri Lanka in the warm-up matches have further disrupted their build-up. While Pakistan possess individual talent, their limited exposure at the highest level and lack of sustained international match practice could prove their biggest handicap.

Even so, India will be wary of underestimating their neighbours in what could be a tricky encounter at Edgbaston. India will hope openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma provide a brisk start in the powerplay before Yastika Bhatia, Harmanpreet and Bharti Fulmali look to build on the platform.

The bowling attack, meanwhile, is expected to lean heavily on the spin unit, which could have a decisive role to play in English conditions. Pakistan's batting will largely depend on captain Fatima Sana and the top-order trio of Muneeba Ali, Gull Feroza and Ayesha Zafar, while the experienced Diana Baig will spearhead their pace attack.

Ahead of the campaign opener, India head coach Amol Muzumdar stressed that although the team's ODI World Cup triumph has given them confidence, the change in format demands a fresh mindset. "It's a completely different format (T20). Yes, we won the World Cup in ODIs but this is a brand-new format and we are looking forward to it. One thing I can assure you is that we will take a lot from that World Cup into this tournament because we know for a fact that we can cross the line," Muzumdar said.

Live, Star Sports, 7pm

IANS

ALL SET: Smriti Mandhana

Olivercc claims feature

Bengaluru: Pesi Shroff-trained Olivercc came up tops in the Justice P Medapa Memorial Trophy, the main event of the races here on Saturday.

1. The Snow Dew Plate (Div II) 1400M: Jolie's Star 1, Ransomware 2, Whitney 3, Diesel 4, 3-1/2l, 1/2l, 1-3/4l. T: 1:30.84. Tote: Rs 27 (W). 10, 18, 26 (P). Fc: Rs 220. Q: Rs 148. Shp: Rs 53. Thp: Rs 51. Trinalla: Rs 1,381 & 704. Exacta: Rs 4,365 & 935. **2. The Sir Cecil Plate (Div II) 1200M:** River

HORSE RACING

Deep 1, Absolute Katrina 2, Flash 3. Glorious Spectre 4, 3-1/4l, Lnk, 2-3/4l. T: 1:15.73. Tote: Rs 21 (W). 20, 16, 18 (P). Fc: Rs 97. Q: Rs 51. Shp: Rs 45. Thp: Rs 38. Trinalla: Rs 262 & 155. Exacta: Rs 1,710 & 651. **3. The Snow Dew Plate (Div I) 1400M:** Agrima 1, Palma 2, Ice Queen 3, Hold Your Breath 4, 13-3/4l, 2-3/4l, 5-1/4l. T: 1:29.80. Tote: Rs 33 (W). 12, 17, 18 (P). Fc: Rs 511. Q: Rs 252. Shp: Rs 52. Thp: Rs 39. Trinalla: Rs 2,536 & 2,174. Exacta: Rs 67,481. **4. The Meydan Plate 1200M:** Money Bags 1, Efficacy 2, Ricardo 3, Star Glory 4, 6l, 3/4l, 2-1/2l. T: 1:13.97. Tote: Rs 14 (W). 10, 16, 22 (P). Fc: Rs 25. Q: Rs 20. Shp: Rs 21. Thp: Rs 39. Trinalla: Rs 84 & 63. Exacta: Rs 211 & 95. **5. The Justice P Medapa Memorial Trophy 1600M:** Oliver 1, Badshaah 2, Sassy Sarah 3, Star Of India 4, Snk, 1-1/2l, 7l. T: 1:40.61. Tote: Rs 18 (W). 12, 48, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 686. Q: Rs 406. Shp: Rs 156. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 1,527 & 218. Exacta: Rs 4,110 & 1,908. **6. The Dharmaprakasha LS Venkaji Rao Memorial Trophy 1600M:** Pearl Star 1, Sprezzatura 2, Theos 3, Haboob 4, Not run: Cantarina. 8l, 6-3/4l, 2-3/4l. T: 1:41.15. Tote: Rs 13 (W). 10, 16 (P). Fc: Rs 26. Q: Rs 21. Shp: Rs 21. Thp: Rs 30. Trinalla: Rs 108 & 52. Exacta: Rs 454 & 253. **7. The Sir Cecil Plate (Div I) 1200M:** Breeze Bluster 1, Il Volo 2, Carat Love 3, Star Comet 4, Shd, Snkl, Shd. T: 1:16.45. Tote: Rs 111 (W). 22, 15, 16 (P). Fc: Rs 681. Q: Rs 293. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 50. Trinalla: Rs 3,118 & 844. Exacta: Rs 14,095 & 8,054.

Jackpot: Rs 2,436. **Runner up:** Rs 85. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 752. **First Treble:** Rs 133. **Second Treble:** Rs 464. TNN

Vultures emerge champions

Bengaluru: Vultures Cricket Club handed Swastic Union CC (2) a 12-run defeat in the rain-hit final to emerge champions in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy here on Saturday. Asked to bat, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Swastic Union rode on Aneeshwar Gautam's 128-ball 156 to post a strong total of 307/7 in 50 overs. In reply, Vultures' chase was interrupted by rain before they won the match via the VJD method. After rain interrupted play, the target was revised to 263 from 39 overs. Karun Nair (69) and KL Shrijith (54 n.o) laid the foundation before the rain returned and no further play was possible.

YSR MEMORIAL TROPHY

Brief scores: Swastic Union (2): 307/7 in 50 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 156 (128b: 16x4, 8x6), Gaurav Shanbhag 55; Santokh Singh 2-56, Shikhar Shetty 2-40) lost to **Vultures CC: 152/2 in 25.5 overs** (Karun 69, Shrijith 54 n.o.). (Target revised to 263 in 39 overs due to rain. No further play). TNN

Anvitha wears crown

Mysuru: Anvitha Narender held her nerves in the final round to emerge on top in playoff and clinch her second title in the seventh leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Saturday. Bengaluru-based Anvitha staged a back-nine comeback and then beat the Vani Kapoor in the second hole of the playoff. Anvitha carded 1-under 69 as Vani charged up with a 6-under 64 and both were tied at one-under-209. **Final scores (after 54 holes): 209:** Anvitha Narender (72, 68, 69), Vani Kapoor (72, 73, 64); **210:** Riya Jadon (67, 73, 70); **212:** Khushi Khanijau (72, 72, 68), Vidhatri Urs (69, 73, 70); **215:** Mannat Brar (76, 69, 70), Ananyaa Sood (71, 69, 75); **216:** Durga Nittur (71, 71, 74). TNN

Litchfield powers Aus

Manchester: Australia started their Women's T20 campaign with a convincing 65-run win over South Africa in Old Trafford on Saturday. Batting first, Australia posted 172 for eight in 20 overs thanks to Phoebe Litchfield's 51 off just 24 deliveries.

ENGLAND THRASH LANKA

England made a flying start

T20 WC WRAP

to their campaign as Danni Wyatt-Hodge's blistering century inspired an 87-run rout of Sri Lanka on Friday.

SCOTLAND SCRIPT HISTORY

Scotland made history on Saturday, securing their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with a commanding 40-run win over Ireland at Old Trafford. Led by captain Kathryn Bryce, Scotland posted a competitive 161/5 in their 20 overs. In reply, Ireland struggled to build momentum, losing wickets at regular intervals and were eventually bowled out for 121 in 19.1 overs.

Brief scores: Aus 172/8 in 20 overs (P Litchfield 50) bt **SA 107 all out in 16.4 overs** (L Wolvaardt 44, G Wareham 3-13); **Eng 219/1 in 20 overs** (Wyatt-Hodge 105n.o, A Jones 53) bt **SL 132 all out in 20 overs** (N Silva 39; Kemp 4-21); Scotland 161/5 (K Bryce 60, S Bryce 49; A Canning 3-27) bt Ireland (A Hunter 39, K Gordon 3-16); **Sco 161/5 in 20 overs** (Kathryn 60, Sarah 49; Ava 3-27) bt **Ire 121 all out in 19.1 overs** (Amy 39, Orla 33; Kirstie 3-16, Katherine 3-19). AGENCIES

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GOAL RUSH

11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026

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"IT'S NOT ONLY SOME NAMES, IT'S ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE. NOT ONLY THE STARTING 11 BUT ALL THE PLAYERS AROUND AND ON THE BENCH. AND THE FANS, BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY THEY GAVE TO THE TEAM."

— MAURICIO POCHETTINO
ON USA'S CONVINCING OPENING WIN OVER PARAGUAY

REBORN IN THE USA

'Anchor Baby' Balogun Scores Double As Hosts Start With An Emphatic Victory

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

USA 4
Bobadilla 7-og, Balogun 31, 45+5, Reyna 90+8

PARAGUAY 1
Mauricio 73

Folarin Balogun of the US celebrates with teammates after scoring their third goal

Washington: Much heated discussions have taken place about American borders, immigration, and naturalization. But one thing was clear at Los Angeles Stadium in the United States' 4-1 win over Paraguay in the World Cup opener: no one in red, white, and blue will be protesting a bureaucratic decision made nearly 25 years ago to prevent one pregnant woman from flying back to England.

Folarin Balogun, scorer of two goals on his World Cup debut, was born in Brooklyn to Nigerian parents after his pregnant mother, visiting her sister in America, was reportedly advised against flying back to Britain, where she lived at that time. In the more extreme corners of the MAGA universe, that would make Balogun an 'anchor baby' — born to someone visiting the US. On Friday, he was simply called 'Man of the Match,' the undisputed hero of a squad that perfectly represents the beautiful, messy, borderless reality of modern football.

Balogun's mother eventually returned to the UK when he was a month old. He then grew up in London, played youth football in England, represented Monaco, had Nigeria tugging at one sleeve and England at the other, before eventually deciding to play for the United States.

There are few institutions better at exposing the absurdity of rigid nationalism than international football. The World Cup is a celebration of flags, anthems and tribal loyalties — staged by teams assembled from the glorious messiness of human migration. The US team is a case study in this phenomenon.

While Balogun's journey has already become part of football folklore, Gio Reyna, who scored the fourth goal, was born in England while his American parents, former US internationals Claudio Reyna and Danielle Egan Reyna, were playing there. Sergino Dest was born in the Netherlands to a Dutch mother and Surinamese-American father. Yunus Musah represented England at youth level before switching to the US.

America's team, in other words, looks suspiciously like America. This should not come as a surprise. The nation has spent centuries importing scientists, doctors, dreamers, strivers, eccentrics, entrepreneurs and, occasionally, devastating forwards, strikers, and hoopsters.

This beautiful irony isn't exclusive to the US. Turn to Europe, and you will find teams absolutely brimming with African-origin talent. France's roster is a wonderful tribute to the sub-Saharan footballing pipeline, while half of Europe's elite midfield engines trace their lineage directly back to Lagos, Dakar, or Kinshasa.

France won the 2018 World Cup with stars such as Kylian Mbappe, whose father is from Cameroon and mother from Algeria, and Paul Pogba, born to Guinean parents. Germany's modern football identity has been shaped by players with Turkish, Ghanaian and Tunisian roots. Football recruiters call it talent scouting. Anti-immigrant wingnuts call it... well, something rather less printable.

Yet here lies the delicious contradiction. Many societies are growing increasingly anxious about immigration even as they leap to their feet to applaud goals scored by immigrants and children of immigrants. The striker who buries the winner becomes "our boy". The migrant who doesn't is an alien.

This World Cup has already provided reminders that global tournaments do not exist in a diplomatic vacuum. The unofficial motto might as well be: "Please proceed to immigration control."

Consider the ongoing, agonizing saga of the Iranian national team. Bureaucrats subjected them to a gruelling diplomatic war of words over visa approvals, forcing the squad to ditch their planned Arizona training base for Tijuana, Mexico. Worse still, under their restrictive visa conditions, the Iranians are reportedly required to enter and exit US soil on the exact same day as their matches — essentially treating elite international athletes like day-labourers who must clear out before sundown.

Then again, perhaps football's greatest gift is its refusal to fit neatly into ideological boxes. Balogun's goals were not scored by an immigration policy. They were scored by a gifted footballer whose life story traversed Nigeria, America, Britain and France. The beautiful game has always thrived on such collisions of geography and identity. It is a sport where a boy born in Brooklyn, raised in London and playing for Monaco can become the toast of Los Angeles.

The World Cup remains a joyous rebuke to the idea that humanity can be sorted into separate boxes. People move, families relocate, babies are born while travelling, and careers cross oceans. Sometimes, as Balogun showed against Paraguay, they remind us that while borders may divide maps, football has an uncanny habit of connecting people — one glorious, immigrant-assisted goal at a time.

CHILD'S PLAY: A toddler is dressed up in American colours

BECKHAMS CRUISE: The celebrities are out in Los Angeles

KID ROCKS: Katy Perry with Tius Luka

NAMASTE, WORLD CUP: Fans at a watch party in Frisco, Texas

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

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England hit by training equipment theft ahead of Kansas City arrival

England have suffered a theft of training equipment ahead of their arrival in Kansas City, local police said, after a vehicle transporting the gear to their World Cup base was broken into.

The incident occurred while equipment was being transferred from England's pre-tournament base in Florida to Swope Soccer Village, where it was due to be in place before the squad begin training after their arrival in Kansas City on Saturday. "We are investigating a possible theft of equipment from a team vehicle that arrived in Kansas City with items missing this evening," police said. "The investigation is ongoing. Two subjects of interest were taken into custody pending further investigation."

Balls and boots were among the items believed to have been stolen, according to British media reports. The Football Association said it was a police matter and they had no information to provide. The theft could affect England's preparation. REUTERS

Richards first since WC 1966 to achieve 100% passing accuracy

California: United States defender Chris Richards has etched his name into the record books after completing 83 out of 83 passes against Paraguay in their World Cup 2026 opener, marking the highest number of passes completed with 100 per cent accuracy by any player in a World Cup match since 1966, according to ESPN Insights.

FIFA blames empty seats in Mexico on fans in concourses

Guadalajara: FIFA blamed the empty seats during the World Cup match between South Korea and the Czech Republic in Guadalajara on fans who watched from the concourses. The official attendance was nearly 45,000. On Friday, the stadium in Toronto had some empty spots too. AGENCIES

GHANA PLAYER PARTEY DENIED CANADIAN VISA

Accra: Ghana said it has formally lodged a protest over Canada's refusal to issue a visa for the World Cup to player Thomas Partey, who is facing trial in Britain on rape charges.

The Villarreal midfielder, who previously played for Arsenal, has pleaded not guilty to seven charges of rape and one count of sexual assault relating to allegations by four different women between 2020 and 2022.

A trial has been set for next year, allowing the 32-year-old to represent Ghana at the World Cup, but he will not be involved in Wednesday's match against Panama in Toronto. The 32-year-old will be eligible to play in Ghana's subsequent Group L games, both taking place in the US. AFP

Striker Needs Just Two Minutes To Give Co-Hosts Canada Much-Needed Shot In The Arm

SUB LARIN HAS CAN-DO ATTITUDE

Pix: Getty Images, AP, Reuters

Canada's Cyle Larin (9) celebrates with teammates after scoring the equaliser against Bosnia and Herzegovina on Friday

CANADA 1
Larin 78

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA 1
Lukic 21

Toronto: For long spells of Canada's World Cup opener against Bosnia and Herzegovina, it looked like the co-hosts would come up short, but striker Cyle Larin came off the bench and calmed their nerves with an equaliser that secured a glorious first point.

In the nation's first men's World Cup game on home soil, the Canadians enjoyed the lion's share of possession and created plenty of chances.

However, a sucker-punch goal from Jovo Lukic for the Bosnians — his first international goal — in the 21st minute left the home side in a deep hole and it fell to Larin to drag them out of it.

After spending 76 minutes stewing on the bench after being left out of Jesse Marsch's starting lineup, Southampton striker Larin had a point to prove and scored less than three minutes after coming on with an excellent turn and shot.

"I mean, I want to play every game and I've been working all those seasons in my club to play every game but sometimes you don't have control, but I have to show when I go in the game, and I showed today I should be playing," he told Canadian TV.

It seemed fitting that Canada's first World Cup goal on home soil came from the 31-year-old Larin, who is second on their all-time top-scorers' list behind Jonathan David.

"Kyle wasn't happy about not starting," coach Jeese Marsch said of the striker who bagged eight goals for Southampton in the Championship this season. "But I said to him, 'Look, you've had a great year at Southampton, whether you've started or come off the bench, you've had an impact in every game, and now you have to wrap your mind around that.' And he did."

Larin's goal not only saved the World Cup opener for Canada on Friday, it gave a bunch of Canadian celebrities a reason to stomp and shout.

"Deadpool" star and Wrexham co-owner Ryan Reynolds, NHL standout Connor McDavid and actor Mike Myers were among the Canadian stars spotted among the announced 43,002 fans at BMO Field for the first men's World Cup match on Canadian soil.

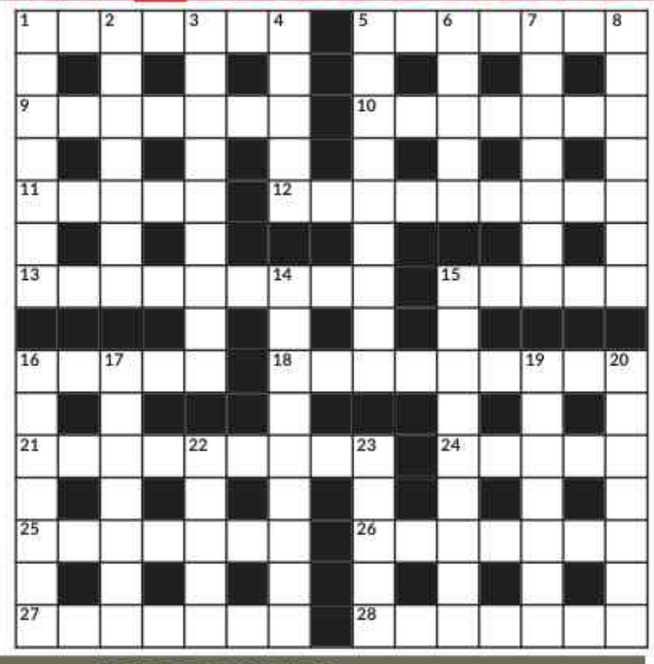
Myers sported a Canada jersey and a red bucket hat. Yeah, baby. AGENCIES

SONG, DANCE, AND SELFIE: Alanis Morissette (from top), Nora Fatehi and Ryan Reynolds at the Toronto Stadium

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0276

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1 Much was written on this once (7)
5 Dialect around the Kremlin? (7)
9 Prepare to use again in secrecy clearly (7)
10 This posting means trouble in China (7)
11 No permission for recesses (5)
12 Most foolish however? (9)
13 Convince electors it's the only way to vote (3,6)
15 Appropriate ceremonial form in speech (5)
16 Out of such groups one is miserable (5)
18 Examination of litmus? (4,5)
21 Rough site developed in a reasonable way (9)
24 Country has right to mountain range (5)
25 Perplexing situation for retired cover girl (7)
26 It doesn't make sense but put it in anyway (7)
27 Pull out in time (7)
28 Poverty led to being irritated (7)

Down

1 Mean to cut a vegetable (7)
2 Recognise and select (4,3)
3 Bags of hikers (9)
4 Brief period of enchantment (5)
5 They give directions to navigators (9)
6 Tory leader is not commonly corrupt (5)
7 In such rain it's better than walking (7)
8 Support for a runner in new style St Leger (3-4)
14 He works his fingers to the bone (9)
15 Journalist's work needs to be bang on time (9)
16 Big steps tried out on board (7)
17 Uniform - and its wearer? (7)
19 Not just relating to some (7)
20 Passed through another station (7)
22 Persuade an agency girl to start typing (5)
23 Issue newly minted coins (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1 No longer practised (7) 5 Call in question (7) 9 Cause of public outrage (7) 10 An acute intestinal infection (7) 11 Praise highly (5) 12 Too soon to know (5,4) 13 Defame reputation of (9) 15 Devoutness (5) 16 To freewheel (5) 18 Terminate (3,4,2) 21 Capricious in behaviour (9) 24 Excessive hurry (5) 25 Transient (7) 26 Head side of coin (7) 27 Reparation for wrong (7) 28 Favourable outcome (7)

Down

1 Lower oneself morally (7) 2 Austere (7) 3 Incidental information (9) 4 Research deeply (5) 5 Erroneous (9) 6 One acting as agent for another (5) 7 Ordinary standard (7) 8 Mere rumour (7) 14 Vegetable eaten as young shoots (9) 15 Create great confusion (4,5) 16 Climbing plant (7) 17 Defendant (7) 19 To merit (7) 20 Unity of opinion (7) 22 Ingenuous (5) 23 A hybrid (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

F	R	I	D	A	Y	■	C	R	A	C	K	P	O	T
R	■	R	■	B	■	■	■	A	■	A	■	L	■	H
I	N	R	O	A	D	■	I	N	C	R	E	A	S	E
A	■	E	■	T	■	S	■	K	■	O	■	N	■	R
B	A	G	U	E	T	T	E	■	C	U	S	T	O	M
L	■	U	■	S	■	A	■	A	■	S	■	■	■	O
E	L	L	A	■	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S	E	S
■	■	■	A	■	A	■	D	■	O	■	L	■	A	■
W	A	R	O	F	W	O	R	D	S	■	O	F	F	A
R	■	■	■	T	■	M	■	Y	■	G	■	E	■	N
E	L	A	T	E	D	■	A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y
A	■	N	■	R	■	N	■	E	■	O	■	Y	■	B
T	A	K	E	A	W	A	Y	■	T	R	O	P	P	O
H	■	L	■	L	■	I	■	■	■	G	■	I	■	D
E	Y	E	S	L	E	F	T	■	K	E	E	N	L	Y

QUICK

S	U	B	M	I	T	■	D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S
E	■	E	■	N	■	■	■	L	■	V	■	L	■	A
A	S	T	U	T	E	■	A	L	L	I	N	A	L	L
F	■	T	■	I	■	U	■	Y	■	A	■	S	■	I
O	P	E	N	M	I	N	D	■	S	T	A	P	L	E
O	■	R	■	E	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	N
D	O	O	M	■	H	A	R	D	F	O	U	G	H	T
■	■	F	■	M	■	R	■	J	■	N	■	O	■	■
S	O	F	T	O	P	T	I	O	N	■	F	I	R	M
H	■	■	■	N	■	H	■	U	■	T	■	T	■	O
A	F	F	R	A	Y	■	F	R	E	E	H	A	N	D
R	■	O	■	L	■	P	■	N	■	N	■	L	■	E
P	H	Y	S	I	Q	U	E	■	O	D	I	O	U	S
E	■	E	■	S	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	N	■	T
N	O	R	M	A	L	L	Y	■	F	R	E	E	L	Y

Socceroos share their immigrant songs

Ahead Of Opener, Oz Are Celebrating The Refugees In Their Squad

New York: The message is simple: Football is for everyone. But it comes at a time when anti-immigrant sentiment is on the rise in Australia and in many places around the world.

Among those featured in a video released by Professional Footballers Australia is Awer Mabil, who was born in a refugee camp in Kenya to South Sudanese parents. "There's a lot of journeys behind the jersey, so to be a Socceroo has many different meanings, but with one purpose, and that is to do the country proud," Mabil said.

Mabil is one of three Socceroos who were born in refugee camps. Fellow forward Mohamed Toure was born in a camp in Guinea to Liberian parents before his family settled in Adelaide. And attacker Nestory Irankunda was born in a Tanzanian refugee camp after his parents fled Burundi. The family moved to Perth but later settled in Adelaide, where Irankunda and Toure became friends.

Both Toure, who plays for Norwich, and Irankunda, who plays for Watford, are making their World Cup debuts. Mabil plays in Spain for Castellon, and is making his second World Cup appearance. Milos Degenek's family left Croatia when he was a baby and they lived as refugees in Serbia before moving to Sydney.

The Socceroos' message comes at a fraught time for immigrants around the world. A knife attack in Northern Ireland earlier this month set off two nights of fiery riots, stoked by anti-migrant rhetoric.

In the United States, President Donald Trump has implemented a widespread immigration crackdown. Visa restrictions have touched the World Cup, with Somali referee Omar Artan denied entry into the country.

There have also been a series of anti-immigrant marches and rallies under the label "March for Australia." The events have been marked by arrests for hate speech and clashes with counter protesters.

"At a time when some seek to divide us and question who belongs, the Socceroos stand as a powerful reminder of who we truly are as a nation and as Australians," PFA chief executive Beau Busch said. "The Socceroos highlight the profound impact of multiculturalism on our country. People who have come from all corners of the world have shaped football, our community and sense of self in the world."

The Socceroos have played in the last five World Cups and have advanced to the round of 16 twice, including in 2022. Australia opens Group D play on Saturday against Turkey in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Australia has been training in Oakland, California. Toure, one of 17 new players on the team, caused concern when he was absent from practice on Wednesday, but his teammates reported he was back on Thursday. AP

AP

WORK, PLAY: Australia's Mohamed Toure (left) and Jackson Irvine during training

AUSTRALIA VS TURKIYE

9:30 am (Sun) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

HEAD TO HEAD

Australia		Turkiye
2	Played	2
0	Win	2
1	Goals	4

Family legacies fly high at IAF commissioning parade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

It was an emotional and proud moment for the Sudan family as Flying Officer Harikirat Singh was commissioned into the IAF on Saturday. "The IAF has been a way of life for us, and seeing the legacy continue into the third generation is deeply satisfying. We are confident he will uphold the values of integrity, discipline and service to the nation," said Wing Commander S K Sudan, whose wife is also a serving officer and whose father was also in the IAF.

Haryana-born Flying Officer Minakshi Kumari's story is similar. The ex-NDA cadet's father, Subedar Major Ravinder Kumar, is a JCO in the Army, and her brother a captain. The family was beaming watching their daughter in the IAF uniform. Minakshi did her schooling from Army Public School in Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi.

Flight Cadet Divyanshi Singh's childhood was painted in the hues of the IAF. Her father filled their home with tales of discipline, honour, and selfless service. Little did the young girl know that admiring the uniform from afar would one day lead her to script history. Divyanshi is the first ex-NDA woman cadet to be commissioned into the ground duty branch of the IAF.

Flight Cadet Minakshi Kumari comes from a family with a defence background

Reviewing the parade, defence minister Rajnath Singh described the IAF as the nation's "shield and sword" and praised its role during Operation Sindoor. "Their indomitable spirit and unmatched valour were demonstrated during Operation Sindoor when they destroyed terror hideouts with clarity and precision. The operation succeeded not only because of indigenous platforms but also due to the courage, discipline and training of IAF personnel."

Singh urged the newly commissioned officers to stay alert to emerging threats and adapt to rapidly changing technologies in modern warfare.

Apart from the IAF officers, nine Indian Navy officers, three Indian Coast Guard officers and two officers from Vietnam were awarded their wings, while three officers received brevets after completing navigation training.

Flying Officer Ashish Kumar Yadav received the President's Plaque and the Nawanagar Sword of Honour for securing first position in the overall order of merit in the pilot course. Flying Officer Ekta Gupta topped the navigation stream, while Flying Officer Divyanshi Singh secured first place among the ground duty branches.

The newly commissioned officers later marched out to martial tunes after taking the oath to safeguard the sovereignty and honour of the country in the presence of their families.

Retired sepoy's son receives prestigious sword of honour

Shivani.Azad@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Lieutenant Vishal Kumar won the prestigious Sword of Honour and the President's Gold Medal at the IMA passing out parade (POP) on Saturday.

The son of a retired Bihar Regiment sepoy, the young officer is set to join 4 Garhwal Rifles, reports **Shivani Azad**.

The foundation of Kumar's journey was laid at home before being nurtured at Indian Military School Chail (Himachal Pradesh) and later honed at two of the country's premier military institutions — NDA and IMA.

The young cadet said the youth should know that defence is not just about the battlefield, adding it has much more to offer — character, moral values and a life with the solid purpose of serving the country

Kumar said, "The youth should know that defence is not just about the battlefield. It has much more to offer -- character, moral values, ethos and a life with the solid purpose of serving the country."

He added, "Joining a service comes later; first comes the purpose. I chose a purpose in life and then set a goal. Everyone should be self-motivated, have a purpose in life and remain determined to achieve their goals because that is what drives a good leader in the right direction and, ultimately, the nation."

His father, retired sepoy Binod Kumar, and mother, quietly savoured his success. "It is his hard work and perseverance that are reflected in this achievement. He has become an officer and has also won the prestigious Sword of Honour. We could not have asked for more," Binod told **TOI**.

The young officer attributed his success to the people who shaped his journey. "I owe this to my instructors and my parents. They prioritised this goal above everything else, and that is how I have achieved this milestone today," he said.

Young officers must lead by example: Prez

▸ Continued from page 1

Murmu, who presided over the ceremony as the POP's reviewing officer, further addressed the IMA gathering: "I hope this will inspire many more young women to join the Army in the years ahead." Murmu also congratulated the OCs for completing their training with a special mention for the foreign OCs. " I'm confident that the training at the academy and the qualities imbibed by them here will help them bring laurels for their countries while serving them in the uniform." She also underlined the newly-inducted officers' responsibilities towards their troops — to lead by example, inspire confidence, and foster teamwork. The President earlier conferred the awards to their respective winners.

The Sword of Honour for 'Best Overall Cadet' was awarded to Vishal Kumar. He also received the gold medal for standing first in the regular course. The silver medal in the regular course was awarded to Prince Raj while the bronze was conferred upon Tejas Bhatt. Hrishabh Mishra received silver medal for standing first in the technical graduate course while Karan Pandey was awarded the silver medal for standing first in the technical entry scheme.

Among the foreign OCs, Zaif Hadid Alvy from Bangladesh was adjudged as the 'Best Foreign OC'. Bodh Raj Thapa was given the silver medal in the special commissioner officers' course.

Dhaka sees remarks made by Delhi's new envoy with suspicion

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Indian high commissioner-designate to Bangladesh **Dinesh Trivedi**'s remarks, made both before and shortly after his arrival in Dhaka, were received positively in some quarters, but the Tarique Rahman-headed govt said it would view the new envoy's comments with suspicion.

"If anyone tries to talk about any framework beyond the United Nations, Saarc and Bangladesh, we will be compelled to view such remarks with suspicion. Those who do not want Saarc unity cannot be trusted when they speak of any other form of unity," said the country's information and broadcasting minister, Zahir Uddin Swapon, on Saturday without mentioning any name.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and leader of opposition in parliament Shafiqur Rahman urged govt to seek clarification from the new envoy over his reported remark about "India and Bangladesh becoming one".

Meanwhile, Maulana Ahmed Abdul Qayyum, assistant secretary general of Islami Andolan Bangladesh and president of Dhaka Metropolitan South, expressed deep concern and anger over the new envoy's remarks.

"Whatever explanation he provides will not be acceptable. His statements must be investigated, and the Bangladesh govt must take a firm stance on this issue. We must remain vigilant with a strong sense of faith against India. Trivedi must be expelled from Bangladesh. He has no place in Bangladesh," Qayyum said.

Trivedi arrived in Bangladesh on Friday through the Benapole-Petrapole land port, a move that symbolically underscored the "central importance" of border connectivity in the Bangladesh-India bilateral relations. He expressed his desire to strengthen relations between the two countries.

"First of all, there is only one priority — the relationship between the people of Bangladesh and the people of India. We are brothers and sisters. We share common dreams. We live under the same sky, enjoy the same breeze, and face the same challenges. So, we cannot go wrong. All we need is love and affection, and all problems can be sorted out," Trivedi told reporters at the no man's land area in Benapole.

Haryana woman 3rd gen of family to serve in Army

Dehradun: When Shanan Dhaka, 23, was commissioned as an Army officer, she added her name to a family's long service record that began with her grandfather, who retired as a subedar, continued with her father, who retired as a naib subedar, and runs alongside her sister, who serves as a nursing officer in the Medical Corps.

Dhaka, a resident of Haryana, was among the first batch of women cadets to enter the NDAin 2022, report **Kalyan Das & Shivani Azad**. She secured the top position among women aspirants and an overall 10th rank in the NDA entrance examination, giving up a parallel UPSC preparation plan to pursue what she described as a life she had seen from close quarters since childhood. "Having a military background in the family, it was never a career choice for me, rather a way of life that I had witnessed since childhood, in which I simply had to find a way in. When the opportunity came following the SC ruling, I gave it my all."

College sweethearts, now married, commissioned one after the other

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Dehradun: When Robin Singh Talan and Swati Kumari became sweethearts during their college days, they shared more than their love for each other. They shared a dream of serving the nation in uniform.

On Saturday, that journey reached what the couple called "its most blissful chapter", as Talan, 28, a resident of Greater Noida, was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Army with his wife, already a commissioned officer in the Indian Navy, applauding in the audience proudly.

The couple said their journey reached 'its most blissful chapter'

Sharing their journey, Talan said "both of us had been preparing together for the entrance exams to join the armed forces".

"I joined the Indian Air Force as a corporal. Subsequently, I cracked the exam of Army Cadet College at IMA in 2022 before undergoing the necessary training to be finally commissioned as an officer in the Army today," said Talan.

Swati, 27, had got there first. She was commissioned into the Navy as an officer in 2021. The couple got married in 2024. Serving as a lieutenant in the Navy, Swati said she is "immensely proud to see him (Talan) as a commissioned officer."

"Despite joining the Air Force as a corporal, he continued his efforts to get commissioned as an officer in the Army. We've finally realised our dream of serving the country as officers," she added.

Talan's father, Dhirendra Singh, who retired from the Army as subedar major (hon lt) said, "Seeing my son and daughter-in-law donning uniforms of commissioned officers fills me with great pride and joy."

INDIA DIGEST

13 bullets in 2 secs, cashier shot dead in Chandigarh shop

Two gunmen shot dead a cashier at a chemist's shop in Chandigarh's Sector-11 while rubbing elbows with customers on Saturday afternoon. Thirteen shots were fired in just two seconds at 45-year-old Janki Das, indicating the use of a sophisticated pistol. The motive isn't clear yet.

NTA training for staff ahead of NEET retest

With the NEET-UG 2026 retest scheduled for June 21 amid heightened security concerns, National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday launched a nationwide training programme for examination officials, even as it dismissed a viral claim of another NEET paper leak as fake. The initiative is aimed at strengthening standardised conduct of NTA examinations.

₹4.3cr gold haul: Probe into larger nexus

The discovery of 24 gold biscuits hidden in a cavity in the lavatory of an aircraft that landed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad from Dubai Friday has led investigating agencies to suspect this to be the handiwork of a sophisticated smuggling network involving people familiar with aircraft interiors and operations. Officers estimated the value of the seized gold at Rs 4.3 crore.

4 die of asphyxiation in illegal mine in J'khand

Four men who had allegedly entered an illegal mine (nearly 40-ft-deep) in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Saturday to extract coal died of asphyxiation after inhaling toxic gases, police officers said.

Body found in reserve; tiger attack suspected

A 55-year-old woman died in a suspected tiger attack in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district. The victim, Phool Bai, of Jhalwar village, had entered the forest's Panpatha core zone to collect mahua fruit Thursday morning.

US ban on Anthropic models sparks AI sovereignty concerns

Aabhas Sharma & Manash Gohain | TNN

The controversy comes at a time when AI models are increasingly being used to automate vulnerability discovery, software testing and security analysis

New Delhi: Just over a day after Anthropic hailed India as its "second-largest market" and unveiled a major partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Indian developers, enterprises and researchers found themselves locked out of the company's most powerful artificial-intelligence tier — Claude Fable 5 and Claude Mythos 5 — following a US govt export-control order.

The two use the same underlying model and are distinguished only by their safeguards: Fable 5 is the safeguarded version released to the public, while Mythos 5, with those cyber restrictions lifted, had been reserved for a small group of vetted partners. Cybersecurity experts warn that broad restrictions could undermine defensive security efforts while accelerating calls for sovereign AI capabilities.

The move has become a flashpoint in the broader debate over whether frontier AI models should be treated as strategic technologies subject to export controls, similar to advanced semiconductors and other dual-use technologies.

Jaspreet Bindra, co-founder and chief executive officer of AI & Beyond, said, "In cybersecurity, the same model can be both a weapon and a shield." While restrictions could reduce certain offensive cyber risks, particularly among less sophisticated actors, he cautioned that blanket measures could also weaken legitimate defenders. "The question is not simply access or no access, but who gets access and under what controls..."

Neehar Pathare, managing director, and chief information officer of 63SATS Cybertech,described the move as a "geopolitical seizure" rather than a security safeguard. "By pulling these models from the global market, you haven't disarmed the attacker; you have disarmed the defender," Pathare said, arguing that cybercriminals are unlikely to depend on commercial AI services and can instead turn to open-source or locally hosted alternatives.

The controversy comes at a time when AI models are increasingly being used to automate vulnerability discovery, software testing and security analysis.

Ritwik Batabyal, chief technology and innovation officer at Mastek, said restricting access to advanced AI systems may reduce some immediate risks but could also make it harder for enterprises and researchers to identify vulnerabilities before attackers exploit them.

The development echoes a warning issued just weeks ago in JPMorganChase Center for Geopolitics's report, Beyond the Benchmarks: A Systemic View of US-China AI Competition, which argued that AI has become "the whole ballgame" geopolitically and identified Anthropic's Mythos as a model whose significance extends beyond technology into national security.

On Friday night, that assessment moved from theory to reality for India. For India, which is rapidly positioning itself as a major AI market and innovation hub, the episode raises difficult questions. The country has the talent, the demand and increasingly the investment. Yet, the sudden loss of access to Anthropic's most advanced models shows that participation in the AI revolution may also be shaped by strategic competition between major powers.

Six C-section patients in ICU in Raj, probe on

Jaipur: A probe has been ordered after at least six women developed serious complications following C-section deliveries at SP Medical College, Bikaner, Rajasthan, reports **Intishab Ali**. All of them have now been shifted to the ICU at PBM Hospital. The medical education department has formed a committee to examine if the medicines given to the patients could be the reason for the complications.

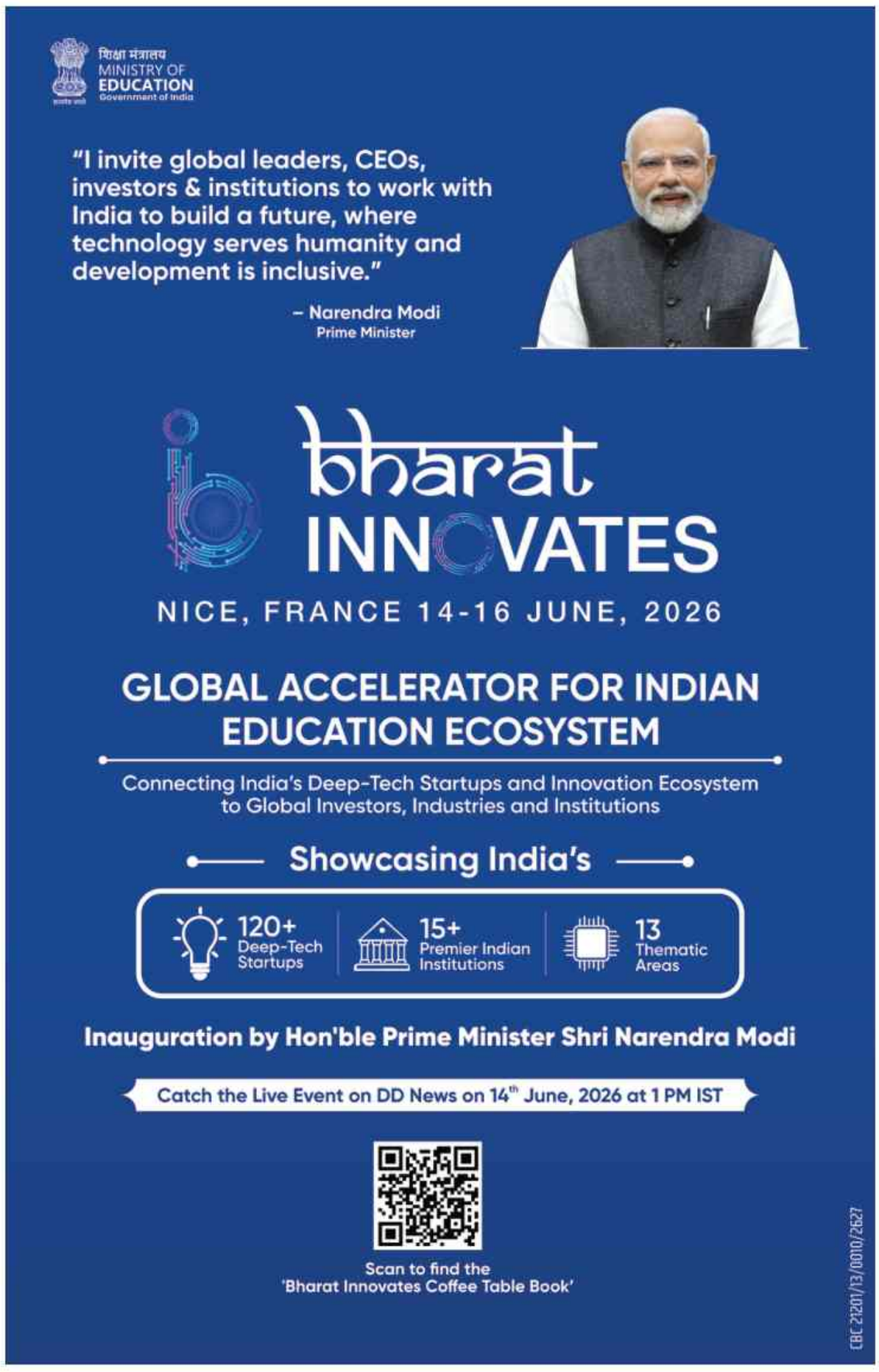
Dr Surendra Verma, principal and controller, SP Medical College, Bikaner, said two of the six patients are critical and on ventilator support. "The rest are stable but in ICU. The cause of complications is still not known. The drug controller team has taken 31 drugs samples and seized all of them." One of the ventilators patients, Sharda (26), admitted on June 3 underwent a C-section on June 4. Her condition deteriorated two hours later and she was shifted to ICU on June 5. Tests showed multi-organ failure.

Russian woman found dead in Kasol homestay

Shimla: A 29-year-old Russian tourist was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a homestay Thursday in Himachal Pradesh's Kasol, a popular tourist destination in Kullu district's Parvati Valley.

Her friend, a Belarusian national who was staying with her, found her unconscious in the homestay washroom and alerted the caretaker, said a police officer. A police team took her to Kullu Regional Hospital, where she was declared dead. The body has been kept in the mortuary.

Police have registered a case and informed the Russian embassy in New Delhi. The woman's name has been officially withheld until the autopsy. Police said postmortem would be conducted once the woman's parents or relatives arrived. According to police, her travel companion, Natalaya, said she did not suspect foul play.


शिक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Government of India
"I invite global leaders, CEOs, investors & institutions to work with India to build a future, where technology serves humanity and development is inclusive."
– Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
bharat INNOVATES
NICE, FRANCE 14-16 JUNE, 2026
GLOBAL ACCELERATOR FOR INDIAN EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM
Connecting India's Deep-Tech Startups and Innovation Ecosystem to Global Investors, Industries and Institutions
Showcasing India's
120+ Deep-Tech Startups
15+ Premier Indian Institutions
13 Thematic Areas
Inauguration by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
Catch the Live Event on DD News on 14th June, 2026 at 1 PM IST
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PRICE ₹6

Isro is working on tech that could extend the operational life of future lunar landers to up to 200 days, says chairman V Narayanan

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SUNDAY

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Modi Will Meet Macron Today

Bilateral talks with French Prez in Nice aimed at boosting ties P 13

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WOMEN IN BLUE READY FOR ANOTHER SPICY SHOWDOWN

ICC T20 WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2026

In another continent, another World Cup is on. And it's grabbing most of the media coverage and mindspace. But make no mistake, an India-Pakistan cricket game always garners decent eyeballs. Records show that Harmanpreet Kaur's girls are overwhelming favourites. But records also tell us a World Cup group game is never about the past. Be prepared for a high-octane Sunday evening as both teams launch their T20 Women's World Cup campaign | P 20

Venue: Edgbaston, Birmingham

Weather: 12°C - 19°C. Light clouds and light winds

Chances of Rain: Low

Where to Watch: Star Sports, Jio Hotstar, 7pm IST

Head-To-Head: Out of 16 T20I games played between the two teams, India has won 13 matches

Success rate 81%

Interesting Fact: In T20 WC, Pakistan last beat India 10 years ago in March 2016

INDIA — World No. 3

PREVIOUS BEST: Runners-up, 2020

CAPTAIN: Harmanpreet Kaur

FORMBOOK: LLWLW

POSITIVES: Strong batting side. Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma form one of the most fearsome opening partnerships in the world. Solid middle order with the in-form Yastika Bhatia, Jemimah Rodrigues and Kaur, though their strike rates could be better. Reliable spinning duo in offie Deepti Sharma and left-arm slow Shree Charani

CONCERNS: Indifferent recent form of Mandhana. Below-par catching, evident during the recent South Africa tour. Pacers tend to leak runs under pressure

X-FACTOR: Richa Ghosh. The keeper-power hitter has a super strike rate of 144

WATCH OUT FOR: Kranti Gaud. The 22-year-old medium-pacer from Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh has a knack of taking early wickets

HIGHEST T20 RUNS (OVERALL): Smriti Mandhana, 4,333 runs

HIGHEST T20 WICKETS (OVERALL): Deepti Sharma, 161 wickets

PAKISTAN — World No. 8

PREVIOUS BEST: Never made it past group stage

CAPTAIN: Fatima Sana

FORMBOOK: NRLLWW

POSITIVES: The much-improved batting and bowling form of captain Fatima Sana. Opener-keeper Muneeba Ali has been consistent, albeit with a slow strike rate. Bowling is Pakistan's strength. Both slow left-arm spinners Sadia Iqbal and Nashra Sandhu are world-class. Sadia ranks no. 2 in ICC's T20 list while Sandhu stands at no. 9. Both have displayed fine temperament under pressure. Sharp ground fielding is another positive

CONCERNS: Doesn't have a single batter in ICC's top 20 list; India has four. Lacks power hitters

X-FACTOR: Diana Baig. The Gilgit-born pacer can bowl inspired spells and also has a knack of producing unplayable deliveries

WATCH OUT FOR: Veteran middle-order bat Aliya Riaz, the highest six hitter in the side

HIGHEST RUNS (CURRENT SQUAD): Muneeba Ali, 1,602 runs

HIGHEST WICKETS (CURRENT SQUAD): Nashra Sandhu, 74

Text: **Avijit Ghosh**. Statistics: **Rajesh Kumar**

THE INDIAN FACTOR OUTSIDE INDIA

PIOs and NRIs have often graced cricket teams abroad. This World Cup is no exception. Many know that South Africa's speed express Shabnim Ismail has a Gujarat background. West Indies has three PIOs: Keeper Mandy Mangru, all-rounder Ashmini Munisar and offie Karishma Ramharack. New Zealand has Bharuch-born Nensi Patel, an off-break bowler. Indians are part of the Associate Nation teams too. Sanya Khurana, 21, is a batter with the Netherlands squad while Dundee-born medium pacer **Priyanaz Chatterji**, 32, has been quite impressive for Scotland

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Mum hospital sends medic on 15-day forced leave for comedy show remarks

KEM Entrusts Woman To Parents' Care

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: KEM Hospital & GS Medical College in Parel has placed third-year MBBS student Sejal Pawar on compulsory leave for 15 days pending an inquiry into the remarks she made during a comedy programme, according to a statement issued by the dean on Saturday.

"At 10.30am today, she was entrusted to the care and supervision of her parents/guardians," said the statement. Pawar has also been told to remain available as and when called by a new inquiry committee, "either physically or through online mode".

Police said Sejal Pawar's comments were found to be disrespectful to the dignity of the deceased and violated standards of public decency

On June 11, cyber police registered an FIR against stand-up comedian Pranit More, Himanshu Jangra and Pawar for allegedly creating and circulating obscene and objectionable content on social media platforms. The medical college has "taken due cognisance of the public concern arising out of the remarks made by Pawar", said KEM Hospital dean Harish Pathak in the statement.

The hospital set up a preliminary fact-finding team the day the controversy broke. Pawar and her parents were called to the dean's chambers, and her explanation and apology were placed on record. The fact-finding team's report was submitted to the dean on Friday, resulting in the interim disciplinary action of 15-day compulsory leave beginning Saturday.

The medical school also plans to constitute a five-member inquiry committee comprising medical teachers and external representatives to examine the facts, context, impact and records, including the social media circulation, and submit its recommendations for further action.

"The institute reiterates that respect for patients, deceased persons, body donors and their families is a foundational value of medical education. The matter will be handled with seriousness, sensitivity and procedural fairness," said the dean.

Police said the comments were found to be disrespectful to the dignity of the deceased and in violation of the standards of public decency. On Thursday, Maharashtra Cyber said a case had been registered at Nodal Cyber Police Station under various provisions of BNS and Information Technology Act.

Pawar had earlier clarified that the clip was around three months old and issued an apology.

Univ student discovers 2 prehistoric sites in TN

Ragu.Raman@timesofindia.com

Chennai: A University of Madras archaeology student has found two prehistoric sites in TN's Coimbatore district — at Chinnamalai in Malaipalayam village and at Senjerimalai, in Sulur taluk. A rock shelter with red ochre geometric paintings, and microlithic tools such as a borer, thumbnail scrapers and hammer stones were found in Chinnamalai, while nearby Senjerimalai yielded stone tools and debitage.

"It is rare to find the rock art with red ochre paintings and in-situ microlithic tools," said Umamaheswari G, a postgraduate student from the university's ancient history and archaeology department.

The borer and a red ochre painting found in Chinnamalai

She found 150 stone tools and seven stone tool artefacts.

Excavation in-charge of the university's department of ancient history and archaeology, Jinu Koshy, said, "The quartzite hammerstone recovered from the Senjerimalai cave bears battering marks on its striking edges. Fine-grained quartzite is absent from the local bedrock geology and it is evidence that prehistoric people could have had contacts with other regions."

Archaeologist V Selvakumar, who excavated Malaipalayam, a neolithic site, said quartz microliths are common in shelters of Coimbatore and Palakkad regions.

Both these hillocks carry documented medieval history. "Mandhiragiri Velayudhaswamy temple at Senjerimalai bears Hoysala inscription dated to 1339 CE, with the original structure attributed to Karikala Chola. Sundararaja Perumal temple at Chinnamalai dates to the Nayak period," said J Soundararajan, associate professor and head of the department.

Modern religious symbols were superimposed over the prehistoric red ochre paintings at Chinnamalai.

TRILLION DOLLARS, NOT ENOUGH KIDS

Musk, the only human with trillion dollars-plus networth, has a thing about fathering as many children as he can. His best options are sperm donations in jurisdictions where the donor's identity needn't remain anonymous. But, the catch is that the genius dad-genius kid result is not guaranteed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

He's a trillionaire. A space exploration evangelist who's just shepherded the world's biggest IPO. He's as powerful as he's rich. Also a brilliant mind. What more could he want?

Babies.

Elon Musk firmly believes he should procreate with the abandon of Northern Elephant Seals (known to impregnate up to 100 females). His belief is rooted in his conviction that smart people should help make many babies. Doing so, in Muskian worldview, is a social good. The efficient way to do that is to donate your sperm.

Soon after Donald Trump was elected in 2024, media reports surfaced about Musk's apparent obsession with sperm donation.

Per NYT, Musk offered to donate his sperm to a couple, who were also guests at a Silicon Valley dinner. Musk said he did no such thing.

But, there's no doubt that the world's first trillionaire is always in the giving mode when it comes to his gametes.

Who's The Daddy?

Problem for him, and other similarly disposed putative sperm-donors – men who want it to be known that their donated sperms helped make babies – is that in most of the world, sperm donor identities are legally confidential. The recipient isn't told. The donor can't disclose his identity.

Exceptions where donor identity disclosure is easier, in varying ways, include UK, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and some states in US, like California, Rhode Island, Connecticut. In India, ICMR guidelines mandate donor identity remains hidden.

Donor identity is a matter of lively debate among punters and pundits in the field. Not all donors are okay with their identity being disclosed. Not all recipients are okay with the idea of anonymous donors. Sperm banks and bioethicists across countries have their own internal debates. But the needle has moved from universal unanimity on anonymity. Needles on such issues, however, move slowly, which is a good thing, given complexities.

Pick The Right Spot

So, if you are Musk, or a Muskian sperm donor, it makes sense to donate your gametes in those jurisdictions where those directly involved – mother and baby – will have the right to access donor identity.

Musk, father of a dozen kids and an aggressive pro-natalist (short definition: those who want women to have more babies), is probably more serious about donating sperm than making money. He should explore these options. It certainly beats offering your sperm to random dinner guests.

The caveat for the world's richest man: In most jurisdictions he will have to answer a bunch of questions, including on medical records, before being listed as a sperm donor. Presumably, that's not something he's used to. But being a smart guy, he should evaluate costs and benefits, and register.

It can't be tougher than selling SpaceX shares.

Related Questions

- **What if two 'Musk donor babies' grow up and procreate?**

That's the fear of inbreeding, which is generally considered risky for the health of babies. Many countries limit sperm donations per male to reduce the probability of this. The same would – should – apply to Musk.

- **Can 'Musk babies' get to know each other?**

Yes. DNA testing is easy and getting cheaper. It's possible, in rich countries and among better off classes in India, to search for people sharing some familial genetic material. A family of Musk half-siblings from across the world can, in future, have a get together with dad.

- **Does this mean new kinds of families will come into vogue?**

If Musk wants to distribute his vast wealth among all his children, how should he go about it? The answer is he has a readymade model in Pavel Durov, founder of Telegram app. Durov has said his wealth — a fraction of Musk's — will be distributed equally between his six "official" children and 100 children in 12 countries born out of his donated sperm.

New kinds of families are already in vogue. Couples living together adopting a baby, a single woman getting a baby out of medically assisted reproduction, divorced women using gametes from a sperm bank to have a baby, gay couples raising children… there will be more variations, because exercising your freedom of choice, with technology as your enabler, will continue to challenge the old notion of what a family means. Sperm donor babies will be another dimension of this change.

- **How much influence do fathers' genes have on a baby's intelligence?**

This question, in some ways, is at the heart of the spermatozoal matter when it comes to donors like Musk. In popular imagination, the likelihood of a genius father spawning a genius child is high.

Consider this, though. An American millionaire, Robert Graham, had started a sperm bank called Germinal Choice, in 1980. Graham only wanted sperm from supersmart men in this bank. Their sperm was available, subject to a few conditions, to women for a nominal fee. The women didn't have to be supersmart. The assumption was that dad's smarts will pass on to the kids.

CNN reported in 2015 that the sperm bank 'produced' 215 children. Many led ordinary lives. None of them became intellectual superstars.

True, this is not conclusive evidence. But it does question the 'smart dad-sperm-smart kid' hypothesis.

Science questions that, too (https://shorturl.at/Xoe9h). Many researchers say children inherit their intelligence from their mother, not father. A study on mice showed cells with paternal genes were found in the brain's limbic system, the bit that influences behaviors about food, sex and aggression. The cerebral cortex, which influences cognitive abilities, didn't have any cells with paternal genes. Separately, a study of young people, adjusting for various nurture factors, found a mother's IQ to be the biggest predictor of a kid's IQ.

This, of course, doesn't mean intelligent men shouldn't donate as much sperm as they are legally allowed. It just means they shouldn't necessarily think they have spawned lots of intelligent kids.